



PULMONARY HYPERTENSION
ASSOCIATION OF CANADA

L'ASSOCIATION D'HYPERTENSION
PULMONAIRE DU CANADA

Mother of 10-Year-Old Lung Disease Patient Raises Awareness of Unique Vulnerability During COVID-19

Mont-Tremblant, Québec (May 5, 2020)—May 5th is World Pulmonary Hypertension Day and takes place as social distancing measures have been in place for nearly two months. This year, pulmonary hypertension caregiver Danush Rudolph asks people to continue to make efforts to protect vulnerable people like her son and help reduce the spread of the coronavirus.

Danush Rudolph is a caregiver for her 10-year-old son Riley, who has a rare and potentially fatal lung disease called pulmonary hypertension (PH). COVID-19 can worsen the symptoms of a chronic lung disease like PH and lead to more severe illness. In children with PH it can be especially difficult to distinguish between a worsening of PH or COVID-19 symptoms. Riley and Danush's lives have become even more challenging while they work to protect themselves from the coronavirus.

“We are being careful and protecting him. He needs to get regular blood work done, so a nurse comes to our home to avoid going to the clinic. This service is very much appreciated. Riley understands the situation. He is sad about it, and misses his teacher very much! But he speaks with friends every day and we try keep a positive attitude. Some moments are more difficult than others. I don't know what will happen this summer, since we can't send him to day camp before there is a vaccine.”

World PH Day is the opportunity to make people realize that we can't give up on social distancing measures now, since vulnerable people—like PH patients—remain at risk of severe illness. To raise awareness, monuments across the country will be illuminated in purple on May 5th, including Niagara Falls and BC Place in Vancouver. The Canadian PH community will also participate in PHA Canada's annual *#PaintCanadaPurple* campaign on social media.

World Pulmonary Hypertension Day is an annual global event to raise awareness of pulmonary hypertension (PH), a severe condition affecting the lungs and heart. PH affects more than 25 million people worldwide, including up to 10,000 Canadians. Over 80 international PH patient associations participate in World PH Day by organizing national awareness campaigns: www.worldphday.org.

Background

About Pulmonary Hypertension

Pulmonary hypertension (PH) is a rare and very complex lung disease, which is progressive and potentially fatal. PH is defined by high blood pressure in the lungs, which leads to enlargement and weakness of the right-side of the heart—a serious type of heart failure. PH can strike people of all backgrounds, ages, and genders. While there is currently no cure for PH, thanks to available treatments, many patients are living longer, healthier lives.

About the Pulmonary Hypertension Association of Canada (PHA Canada)

PHA Canada is a federally registered charity whose mission is to empower the Canadian pulmonary hypertension community through support, education, advocacy, awareness, and research. PHA Canada has been working to better the lives of Canadians affected by pulmonary hypertension since 2008.

For more information, please visit: www.phacanada.ca/worldphday

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