

Daily update – April 3, 2020

B.C. provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry announced 53 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in B.C. today, bringing the total to date to 1,174, with 541 of those cases in the Vancouver Coastal Health region. There are now 146 people in hospital in the province, with 64 being treated in critical care, which represents a slight drop in the number of people being treated in hospital. The vast majority of people with COVID-19 are recovering at home in isolation; 641 people are now listed as fully recovered.

Dr. Henry also announced new cases at another long-term care facility, bringing the number of long-term care and assisted living residences with confirmed cases to 22. She added that four more people in B.C. have succumbed to this disease, three of them residents in long-term care.

To help vulnerable seniors in long-term care and assisted living homes, earlier today, the provincial government announced a partnership with the BC Care Providers Association (BCCPA) to launch EquipCare BC. Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, said the new program will provide \$10 million to enhance infection prevention and control in long-term care and assisted living homes throughout the province. More than 240 residences in B.C. will be eligible for funding that may be used to buy items, including outbreak carts and mobile hand-hygiene sinks, touchless towel and soap dispensers, and safe handling equipment for waste and laundry.

Federally, the government announced today that it will provide \$100 million to meet the urgent food needs of vulnerable Canadians, including those living in Indigenous and northern communities. The funding will help support organizations such as Food Banks Canada, Breakfast Club, The Salvation Army, and others.

At a local level, Vancouver Mayor Kennedy Stewart said today that the City has secured contracts to provide regular cleaning and meal delivery to residents at 21 single-room occupancy hotels on the Downtown Eastside. He said there are currently no confirmed outbreaks or clusters in the neighbourhood, and the additional cleaning and meals will help people continue to keep their distance. He asked Vancouver residents and businesses to contribute whatever funding or supplies they can by going to the giveahandvancouver.ca website.

The Coal Harbour and Roundhouse community centres are now operating as referral-only emergency response centres ready to house up to 160 people, as well as hundreds of hotel



rooms have been secured. There are also plans underway for a transition house for women who are fleeing violence, to give them a safe place to recover.

VCH Medical Health Officers, our provincial partners and the Public Health Agency of Canada continue to actively monitor the COVID-19 pandemic. We strongly urge anyone who has symptoms—including a fever, cough, sneezing, sore throat, or difficulty breathing—to self-isolate for 10 days.

To protect yourself while out in public, wash your hands frequently and maintain social distance. Testing is available for people with respiratory symptoms who are hospitalized or likely to be hospitalized, including pregnant women in their third trimester; health-care workers; residents of long-term care facilities; or part of an investigation of a cluster or outbreak.

A self-assessment tool, developed with the BC Ministry of Health, will help determine whether you may need further assessment or testing for COVID-19. Find it at covid19.thrive.health, or download a self-assessment app for their phones.

For more information and latest updates on COVID-19, follow the BC Centre for Disease Control on Twitter @CDCofBC or visit the website: <http://www.bccdc.ca/>

