Daily update – April 014, 2020

During today’s briefing, Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry announced 27 new cases of COVID-19 in B.C., bringing the total to date to 1,517 confirmed cases. Currently 134 people are hospitalized throughout the province as a result of the virus, with 58 patients in critical care, and 942 people fully recovered. In the Vancouver Coastal Health region, there have been 658 confirmed cases since the pandemic began.

One new long-term care residence in VCH, the South Granville Park Lodge, is now under outbreak protocol, bringing the number of active outbreaks in long-term care facilities throughout B.C. to 21. Dr. Henry also reported three more deaths, two of which were in VCH. Our condolences go out to all families who have lost loved ones to this disease.

During today’s briefing, Dr. Henry also acknowledged that B.C. continues to deal with another public health emergency: the opioid overdose crisis. She said action continues on all fronts; we are not allowing the COVID-19 crisis to overtake our response to the overdose crisis.

VCH Medical Health Officers, our provincial partners and the Public Health Agency of Canada continue to actively monitor the COVID-19 pandemic. To protect yourself while out in public, wash your hands frequently and maintain social distance. Anyone who has symptoms — including a fever, cough, sneezing, sore throat, or difficulty breathing — should self-isolate for 10 days, and seek medical care if symptoms do not improve 5-7 days following symptom onset.

Testing is available for the following groups if they develop a fever (over 38 degrees Celsius) and new onset (or exacerbation of chronic) cough or shortness of breath:

- Health care workers, including community pharmacists
- Residents of remote, isolated or Indigenous communities
- People living in congregate settings, such as work camps, correctional facilities, shelters, group homes, assisted living and seniors’ residences
- People who are homeless or have unstable housing
- Essential services providers, including first responders
- Returning travellers identified at a point of entry to Canada

Testing is also recommended for the following groups if they develop any respiratory or gastrointestinal symptoms, however mild:
Residents and staff of long-term care facilities
Patients requiring admission to hospital or likely to be admitted, including pregnant individuals in their third trimester, patients on hemodialysis, or cancer patients receiving radiation or chemotherapy
Patients who are part of an investigation of a cluster or outbreak as determined by the Medical Health Officer

Any physician can order a test for COVID-19 based on their clinical judgment. People who are asymptomatic should not be tested for COVID-19.

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 smartphones.

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/