Daily update – April 21, 2020

At today's Ministry of Health briefing, Dr. Bonnie Henry announced 25 new cases of COVID-19 in British Columbia, bringing the total to date to 1,724 confirmed cases; 707 have been in Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH). Currently 109 people are hospitalized throughout the province as a result of the virus, with 51 patients in critical care, and 1,041 people are fully recovered. There are still 20 long-term care and assisted living residences that are under outbreak protocol, and one outbreak in an acute care unit. We have one additional death in VCH - our condolences go to their friends and family.

Dr. Henry also announced an outbreak at United Poultry Processing, where 28 employees have tested positive as a result of a community case. The plant is closed and contacts have been notified; VCH is leading the investigation with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Although some may be concerned about products from the company, there is no evidence that COVID-19 can be spread from meat or packaging. We do know that raw poultry can have other bacteria and it’s important that people handle it appropriately. Find out more here.

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 with cold, influenza or COVID-like symptoms can now be assessed and get a COVID-19 test from a physician, nurse practitioner or an urgent and primary care centre. You can also call 8-1-1 to find a testing centre near you or visit http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing. If you think you need testing, please call ahead before visiting your GP, NP or health clinic.

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/.