

Daily Update – April 22, 2020

At today's Ministry of Health briefing, Dr. Bonnie Henry announced 71 new cases of COVID-19 in British Columbia, which includes 28 new cases at United Poultry Processing in Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH). That brings the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases to 1,795 since the epidemic began in B.C.; 745 have been in VCH. Currently 103 people are hospitalized throughout the province as a result of the virus, with 46 patients in critical care, and 1,079 people are fully recovered. There was one additional death of a resident in long-term care in VCH — our hearts go out to their loved ones.

Dr. Henry said new community outbreaks, such as the one at United Poultry, are concerning as we make plans to move ahead to a “new normal.” She said the key to breaking chains of transmission is to stay home if you’re not well, even for sniffles or allergies. She added that employers must have measures in place to ensure everyone working is healthy, and they can not penalize employees for staying home.

Earlier today, Vancouver Coastal Health distributed a news release announcing that radiologists at Vancouver General Hospital (VGH), The University of British Columbia (UBC) and Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute are leading an international study to better predict the presence of COVID-19 based on CT scans. The study involves collecting, analyzing and labelling thousands of CT scans from COVID-19 patients around the globe; the information will form the basis for an open source artificial intelligence (AI) model to predict the presence, severity and complications of COVID-19 on CT scans. Learn more at <http://www.vch.ca/about-us/news/news-releases/new-research-to-better-diagnose-covid-19>.

At today’s federal briefing, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced the Canada Emergency Student Benefit, a \$9 billion package of new measures aimed at helping students and recent graduates who have seen their education and job prospects curbed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The benefit will see eligible post-secondary students receive \$1,250 a month from May to August.

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/>.