

## Daily Update – April 24, 2020

Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, and Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.'s provincial health officer announced 29 new cases of COVID-19 today in a joint statement. That brings the total of test-positive cases in B.C. to 1,853 since the epidemic began; 755 of those cases have been in Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH). Currently 96 people are hospitalized throughout the province as a result of the virus, with 41 patients in critical care, and 1,114 people are fully recovered.

There are currently 20 long-term care and assisted living homes currently affected by Covid-19, as well as three acute-care unit outbreaks. There were also four new COVID-19 related deaths in the province — our condolences go to the families of those affected.

At today's federal briefing, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced a rent assistance program for businesses. It will lower base rent by up to 75 per cent for eligible small businesses that have been impacted by COVID-19, if their landlords agree to take part. The businesses eligible for this rent relief are those that pay less than \$50,000 per month in rent, have had to temporarily cease operations, or have experienced at least a 70 per cent drop in pre-COVID-19 revenues. The program is also being made available to non-profits and charities.

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/>.

