

## Daily update – April 4, 2020

B.C. provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry announced 29 new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in B.C. today, bringing the total to date to 1,203, with 554 of those cases in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region. There are now 149 people in hospital in the province, with 68 being treated in critical care. The vast majority of people with COVID-19 are recovering at home in isolation; 704 people now listed as fully recovered. Sadly, Dr. Henry reported three more deaths, including two more in the VCH region.

Dr. Henry said residents in long-term care are our most vulnerable citizens, and efforts to protect them continue to be a major focus of our health teams. Catching cases early with surveillance has been key — most of the outbreaks in long-term care have been managed with a full outbreak response upon finding even one case.

Dr. Henry also announced a new COVID-19 Strategic Research Advisory Committee, which will advise the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research, which has received \$2 million to fund research in several important public health areas. Research will focus on B.C.-specific epidemiology and public health countermeasures to address some of the challenges of long-term care homes, inner city populations, rural communities, Indigenous people, and health-care workers. This is in addition to a variety of research that is already underway across B.C., as we do all we can to understand this virus, to stop transmission and protect our province.

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](https://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/>

