

Daily update – April 9, 2020

During today's briefing, Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry announced 34 new cases of COVID-19 in B.C., bringing the total to date to 1,370 confirmed cases. Currently 132 people are hospitalized throughout the province as a result of the virus, with 68 patients in critical care, and 858 people fully recovered. In the Vancouver Coastal Health region, there have been 626 confirmed cases since the pandemic began.

One more long-term care residence has been declared clear from outbreak protocol, but there remain 20 active outbreaks in long-term care facilities throughout B.C. Dr. Henry reported two more deaths since yesterday; one of them was in the VCH region. Our condolences go out to all families who have lost loved ones to this disease.

Earlier today, Premier John Horgan announced \$5 million to expand existing mental health programs and services and launch new services to support British Columbians. Enhanced virtual services will support mental health needs arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, with a focus on adults, youth and front-line health care workers. The funding will also increase access for Indigenous communities and those living in rural and remote parts of the province. It will provide more options for people living with mental health challenges who are currently unable to access in-person supports.

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 judgement. 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/>



