

Daily Update – August 31, 2020

Ministry of Health update

On Monday August 31, 2020, Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, announced 294 new cases of COVID-19 in the province for a total of 5,790 cases in British Columbia. Of the total COVID-19 cases, 28 individuals are hospitalized, 22 of them in Fraser Health and three in Vancouver Coastal Health. The remaining people with COVID-19 are recovering at home in self-isolation. Since the start of the pandemic, there have been 1,900 cases of COVID-19 in the Vancouver Coastal Health region. Over the past weekend, four more people died; three of them in long-term care. Doctor Bonnie Henry says we are entering a new phase of the pandemic and whether we're in the second wave or the second bump, we all need to do our part to reduce community spread of the virus.

International Overdose Awareness Day

August 31, 2020 is International Overdose Awareness Day. Judy Darcy, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, says it's a time to come together around the world to raise awareness of overdoses, help reduce the stigma around substance use and recommit to doing everything we can to turn the tide on this terrible crisis. Since January, 909 lives have been lost to an illegal drug supply that is more toxic than it has ever been in British Columbia. The unintended consequences of COVID-19 measures have been particularly hard on people who use drugs. Many are facing isolation and loneliness, disconnection from usual in-person supports, financial strain and mental-health challenges – all contributing to unprecedented levels of stress and pain.

Testing

Anyone in the VCH region with cold, influenza or COVID-19-like symptoms, however mild, can now be assessed for and get a COVID-19 test. Contact your physician or nurse practitioner's office, or a local community collection centre to arrange for a test. Phone numbers and locations of collection centre can be found by visiting: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing> or by calling 8-1-1.

To protect yourself while out in public, wash your hands frequently and maintain social distance. For more information on COVID-19, please visit www.vch.ca/COVID19. For more information and latest updates on COVID-19, follow the BC Centre for Disease Control on Twitter [@CDCofBC](https://twitter.com/CDCofBC) or visit the website: <http://www.bccdc.ca/>.