

Daily Update – Dec. 4, 2020

Ministry of Health Update

In yesterday's media availability on B.C.'s COVID-19 response, Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, reported 694 new COVID-19 cases in the past 24 hours. The total number of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in BC now stands at 35,422 people since the start of the pandemic. There were 114 new cases reported in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region.

Across the province, 12 new deaths were confirmed, while 325 people are currently hospitalized, with 80 of these cases receiving treatment in ICU/critical care. The total number of deaths due to COVID-19 now stands at 481. There were 3 additional healthcare facility outbreaks announced, with no further community outbreaks. Base bed capacity stands at 87.8%, and base and surge bed capacity, which represents overall bed capacity in hospitals, stands at 70.6%.

Dr. Bonnie Henry Briefing

COVID-19 vaccine roll-out

Dr. Henry spoke about the progress made so far to prepare for the eventual arrival of COVID-19 vaccine to B.C. An immunization roll-out strategy will be announced early next week and an emergency operations coordination committee to manage the logistics and delivery of vaccine across the province has been established. Dr. Brown, who is leading the vaccine program for the Ministry, participated in a virtual table-top discussion, along with the BCCDC, with provincial and federal counterparts to discuss the steps required to facilitate vaccine delivery and immunization processes, including potential barriers and challenges that may be encountered. Vaccine will be available in B.C. in coming weeks, and a detailed update on the province's plan and progress will be presented by Dr. Henry and Minister Dix early next week. Dr. Henry remarked that due to the number of vaccines in the late stages of development and/or authorisation in Canada- including Moderna, AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson- she anticipates that by September 2021, any British Columbian who wishes to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, will have this option available to them.

Further restrictions- adult team sports

Dr. Henry's public health team has closely monitored data and evidence with respect to group fitness and sports activities and has found adult team sports often offer a social gathering opportunity, as well as an opportunity to play sports. This has led to transmission events which have been connected to curling, hockey and other sports. She advised her order from November has now been extended to include both indoor and outdoor adult group sports. This order is specific to adult sporting activities, as a similar risk of transmission is not seen among supervised team sports for young people. Dr. Henry reiterated the importance of people continuing to exercise in safe ways- go for a walk, run, swim or play golf or tennis.

The provincial health order is now available on the BC Government's website. You can read this in further detail [here](#).

Federal vaccine update

The federal government confirmed that based on the recommendations of the Public Health Agency of Canada and the national vaccine task force, Canada has locked-in the delivery of additional doses of the Moderna vaccine. An extra 20 million doses have been procured and FedEx Express and Innomar Strategies will be responsible for the shipment and delivery of most vaccines across the country. The Pfizer vaccine will



be the exception due to its specific storage requirements- the manufacturer will manage the transport of this particular vaccine.

Senior Health Canada officials have said on Thursday that we could be just a week away from approving a COVID-19 vaccine. Health Canada is currently reviewing four vaccines, from Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Janssen.

Federal COVID-19 case projection

Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada's Chief Public Health Officer, warned today that if Canada remains on this current trajectory, she anticipates reaching 10,000 cases per day by January 2021. Prime Minister Trudeau warned that cases are too high and hospitals are filling up, emphasizing that this has negative consequences for health workers and Canadians who may have surgeries cancelled.

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 centres can be found by visiting: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing> or by calling 8-1-1. 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/>.

Other Resources

To find the Provincial Health Officer's orders, visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

To see a map of COVID-19 cases by local health area, visit:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data>

For a listing of the community exposure events, go to: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/public-exposures>

For the latest medical updates, including case counts, prevention, risks and testing, visit:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/>

For community engagement opportunities at VCH, see: <http://cean.vch.ca/members/current-opportunities/>