Daily update – July 2, 2020

Ministry of Health update

At today's briefing, Dr. Bonnie Henry, provincial health officer, and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, reported 24 new cases of COVID-19 in B.C. since the last report on Tuesday, bringing the total number of people who have tested positive to 2,940 since the pandemic began. Of those, 989 have been in the Vancouver Coastal Health region. The number of people in hospitals throughout B.C. sits at 17, including two people in critical care, and 2,603 people are considered fully recovered. There have been no new health-care outbreaks, but there are still five active outbreaks in long-term, assisted living or acute care. Dr. Henry also reported two new COVID-19 related deaths in the Vancouver Coastal Health region. We offer our condolences to everyone who has lost their loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Expanded Richmond Hospital plan

Earlier today, Premier John Horgan announced an expanded plan for the Richmond Hospital tower that includes a new state-of-the-art emergency department and intensive care unit. Featuring double the amount of floor space, the new emergency department will be among a suite of added facilities and services to the new nine-floor tower, including a fully equipped medical imaging department, intensive care unit and pharmacy. The new concept plan also includes renovations to the existing South Tower to create new inpatient psychiatry and psychiatric emergency units. The initial concept plan for the acute care tower was approved in March 2018. Detailed business planning for the expanded plan is underway. Completion is expected in September 2020. The project will then proceed to procurement and construction.

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. In Vancouver, the City Centre and REACH urgent and primary care centres can provide testing as well as the St. Vincent's drive-up location at 4875 Heather Street. The Richmond Assessment Centre is located at 6820 Gilbert Road, in the parking lot of the Richmond Tennis Club. On the North Shore, testing is available at the North Vancouver Urgent and Primary Care Centre. If you think you need testing, please call ahead before visiting your doctor, urgent and primary care center or health clinic.

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. 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 or visit the website: http://www.bccdc.ca/.