

Daily Update – July 21, 2020

Ministry of Health update

In a joint statement, Dr. Bonnie Henry, provincial health officer, and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, reported 30 new cases of COVID-19 in B.C., bringing the total number of cases to 3,328 since the pandemic began. Of those, 1,043 have been in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region. There are 266 active cases of COVID-19 in the province and 2,873 people who tested positive have recovered. The number of people in hospitals throughout B.C. is 15, including three people in critical care. One long-term care facility, and two acute care facilities continue to have active outbreaks in B.C.

Surgical Renewal – progress update

Earlier today Minister Dix, together with Michael Marchbank, former president and CEO of the Fraser Health Authority, provided the first public update report on the Surgical Renewal Commitment, which covers May 18, 2020, to June 25, 2020. Progress includes the following:

- 62,744 patients have been contacted to arrange their surgery from May 7 to July 12, 2020.
- 52% of the 17,742 whose surgery was postponed, and who have been called, had their surgeries completed by June 25, 2020.
- 33,723 surgeries have been completed from May 18 to June 25, 2020, representing 91% of last year's volume.
- Since the ramp-up period ended June 15, 100% or more of 2019 volumes have been completed each week.
- From May 18 to June 25, 2020, urgent surgery volumes exceeded last year's volumes.
- Significant focus on patients waiting longer than two times their target wait time resulted in these patients making up 19.4% of non-urgent surgeries completed during the time period, compared to 10.5% in 2019.
- 97% of the previous year's operating hours was achieved during the ramp-up period.
- Summer slowdowns will be reduced by 52%. In previous years, surgical activity has decreased during the summer as a result of planned vacations.
- Surgery durations are back to within 6% of where they were last year.
- \$815,000 has been provided to Health Match BC to support the recruitment of additional health-care professionals.
- Since April 1, 2020, 29 new anesthetists have been recruited.
- Recruitment efforts have also resulted in the hiring of 111 perioperative registered nurses, six perioperative licensed practical nurses, 60 post-anesthetic recovery registered nurses and 35 medical device reprocessing technicians.

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](https://twitter.com/CDCofBC) or visit the website: <http://www.bccdc.ca/>.

