

Daily Update – July 27, 2020

Ministry of Health update

In today's daily briefing, Dr. Bonnie Henry, provincial health officer, and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, reported 81 new cases of COVID-19 in B.C. since last Friday, bringing the total number of cases to 3,500 since the pandemic began. Of those, 1,064 have been in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region. There are 264 active cases of COVID-19 in the province and 3,043 people who tested positive have recovered. The number of people in hospitals throughout B.C. is 11, including three people in critical care. One long-term care facility, and two acute care facilities continue to have active outbreaks in B.C. There have been two additional COVID-related deaths in the VCH region. We offer our condolences to everyone who has lost loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Rules for self-isolating

Dr. Henry said 1,010 people have been required to self-isolate in B.C. because they have been identified as contacts. If you have been told to self-isolate, this is not optional, this is a requirement; it is what you must do for the duration of your incubation period to make sure you do not pass it on to others. She reminded British Columbians to go play outside this summer, but play safe, because no one wants to spend their time indoors, away from friends and family.

Updated Provincial Health Orders

Dr. Henry announced changes to the order on mass gatherings, and to put restrictions on rental properties to a maximum of five visitors, which will prevent large groups of people gathering in a rental home or on a boat. It's the responsibility of the owner to make sure the order is adhered to and to collect contact information. The mass gathering limit will remain at 50 people, and the amended order also clarifies where mass gatherings apply and where it doesn't, such as workplaces and schools.

Tax payment deadline extended

Also today, the Canada Revenue Agency announced it is extending the payment due date for current year individual, corporate, and trust income tax returns, including instalment payments, from September 1, 2020, to September 30, 2020. Penalties and interest will not be charged if payments are made by the extended deadline of September 30, 2020. This includes the late-filing penalty as long as the return is filed by September 30, 2020. The CRA is also waiving interest on existing tax debts related to individual, corporate, and trust income tax returns from April 1, 2020, to September 30, 2020 and from April 1, 2020, to June 30, 2020, for goods and services tax/harmonized sales tax (GST/HST) returns.



Federal funding for testing and contact tracing

Earlier today, the Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health, announced the Government of Canada will provide \$4.28 billion to further expand testing and contact tracing capacity, and the associated data management and information sharing systems. This funding will ensure a national capacity to conduct 200,000 tests per day to help manage COVID-19 outbreaks over the coming year. Canada will also provide \$7.5 billion towards personal protective equipment. Part of this funding will be used to help ensure availability of testing components like reagents, swabs, point-of-care kits, and promote innovation in developing new testing components and equipment. It will also help support contact tracing, including by making federal human resources available to provinces and territories, and help modernize data management and infrastructure to accelerate reporting on cases and access to these data by public health officials.

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/>.