

Daily Update – July 6, 2020

Ministry of Health update

In today's Ministry of Health briefing, Dr. Bonnie Henry, provincial health officer, and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, reported 31 new cases of COVID-19 in B.C. since last Friday, bringing the total number of cases to 2,978 since the pandemic began. Of those, 1,008 have been in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region. There are 166 active cases of COVID-19 in the province and 2,629 people who tested positive have recovered. The number of people in hospitals throughout B.C. is 16, including four people in critical care. Five long-term, assisted living and acute care facilities continue to have active outbreaks in B.C. Dr. Henry also reported six new deaths in B.C., including four in VCH. Our thoughts are with their loved ones, and with the loved ones of everyone who has lost their lives to COVID-19.

COVID-19 notification for Hotel Belmont

VCH is notifying people who visited the bar and nightclub areas of the Hotel Belmont (654 Nelson St., Vancouver) about a possible exposure to COVID-19 during the nights of Saturday, June 27 and Monday, June 29. Individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 attended these areas of the Hotel Belmont on those dates. There is no known risk to anyone who attended the Hotel Belmont outside these two dates. There is no ongoing risk to the community. As a precaution, we are advising people who attended the bar and nightclub areas of the Hotel Belmont during the nights of Saturday, June 27 and Monday, June 29 to monitor themselves for 14 days. As long as they remain healthy and do not develop symptoms, there is no need to self-isolate and they should continue with their usual daily activities. If you have no symptoms, testing is not recommended because it is not accurate or useful. If you develop any of these symptoms of COVID-19, please seek COVID-19 testing and immediately self-isolate. Please call ahead and wear a mask when seeking testing. If you have any questions, you can speak to a Public Health staff member at **604-675-3900**.

Emergency supports extended

Earlier today, Shane Simpson, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, announced the Province is extending federal employment insurance exemptions and the provincial temporary crisis supplement. The extensions will help ensure people on income or disability assistance and low-income seniors will continue to have access to the supports they need during the pandemic. On April 2, 2020, the Province announced a three-month exemption of all federal employment insurance benefits, including the Canada Emergency Response Benefit, for people already receiving income or disability assistance at that time. This exemption was put in place to ensure current clients whose employment may have been impacted by COVID-19 did not face any additional barriers and could fully benefit from federal emergency response programs. This exemption, which now includes the Canada Emergency Student Benefit (effective May 1, 2020), has been extended for the duration of these federal emergency

support programs so that eligible people will continue to fully benefit without any reductions to their monthly income or disability assistance payments.

For those who are not eligible for the federal benefits, the Province's temporary COVID-19 Crisis Supplement, which has been provided since April, will be extended an additional two months. This supplement will continue to be provided to low-income seniors receiving the B.C. Senior's Supplement and income assistance and disability recipients residing in special care facilities. No action is required from recipients. The temporary \$300 crisis supplement will continue to be automatically applied to cheques distributed July 22 and Aug. 26, 2020. These interim measures are part of the B.C. government's COVID-19 Action Plan to provide income supports, tax relief and direct funding for people, business and services.

Tax-free payments to seniors

Also today, the Honourable Deb Schulte, Minister of Seniors, highlighted that seniors eligible for the Old Age Security (OAS) pension, the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS), or Allowances will receive their one-time, tax-free payment this week without needing to apply. Seniors who reside in Canada can expect to receive the payment by direct deposit or cheque this week, whereas seniors who reside outside Canada can expect this one-time payment in July for those on direct deposit, or by cheque with delays given international postal disruptions. Through several measures, the Government is providing about \$900 for low-income single seniors and more than \$1,500 for low-income senior couples, in addition to their existing benefits, to help with extra costs during the pandemic. Seniors eligible for the OAS pension will receive a payment of \$300, and those seniors also eligible for the GIS will receive an additional \$200, for a total of \$500. Allowance recipients will also receive \$500. This \$2.5 billion investment in financial support will help Canadian seniors cover increased costs caused by COVID-19.

Facebook Live Updates

Tune in on Facebook tomorrow, July 7, for the latest COVID-19 updates for the Sunshine Coast and Sea-to-Sky region. Medical health officer Dr. Geoff McKee will be answering questions live at noon for the Sunshine Coast, and at 12:30 for Sea to Sky. Watch and ask questions on our VCH Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/VCHhealthcare/>.

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/>.

