

Daily Update – June 2, 2020

Briefing with Dr. Henry

In today's daily briefing, Dr. Bonnie Henry, provincial health officer, reported four new cases of COVID-19 in B.C, bringing the total number of people who have tested positive to 2,601 since the pandemic began. None of the new cases announced today are in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region. There are 31 people with COVID-19 in hospitals throughout B.C., including eight people in critical care, and 2,229 people are considered fully recovered. There have been no new health-care outbreaks and five outbreaks have now been declared over, including at Amica Edgemont Village and Royal Arch Masonic Home in VCH. In total, eight long-term care or assisted-living facilities continue to have active outbreaks in B.C.

Business safety plans

Dr. Henry noted that a posted COVID-19 WorkSafeBC safety plan, whether online or at the front door, is a clear indicator that a business has done its homework. An effective plan uses multiple layers of protection for employees and customers alike, incorporating such things as barriers for safe physical distancing, one-way pathways, employee training or non-medical cloth masks. Businesses that may be considering COVID-19 testing and screening need to remember that testing does not replace the many steps that are required to keep everyone safe. Testing will help to identify those who have COVID-19 so those individuals can isolate and public health can begin contact tracing, but can be unreliable for those who are asymptomatic. Someone who is negative one day may be positive the next. That is why testing alone does not insulate your business from COVID-19. A reliable test and accredited diagnostic facility, and co-ordination with local public health teams, are also a necessity if testing is included in a safety plan.

VCH sites remain restricted to essential visits

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are working closely with the Ministry of Health to protect the health of everyone in B.C., including patients, clients and residents at all Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) sites. An updated Ministry of Health policy provides expanded guidance and definitions about visitors and essential visits, noting that health authorities should continue to restrict visitors to essential visits only. Essential visits include:



- Visits for compassionate care, including critical illness, palliative care, hospice care, end of life, and medical assistance in dying (MAID)
- Visits paramount to the patient or client's physical care and mental well-being, including:
- Assistance with feeding, mobility, personal care
- Communication assistance for persons with hearing, visual, speech, cognitive, intellectual or memory impairments
- Assistance by designated representatives for persons with disabilities, including provision of emotional support
- Visits for supported decision-making
- Visits for pediatric care, labour and delivery
- Existing registered volunteers providing the services described above.
- Visits required to move belongings in or out of a client's room.
- Police, correctional officers and peace officers accompanying a patient/client for security reasons.

Essential visits shall be limited to one visitor per patient/client within the facility at a time for a visit up to two (2) hours. A visitor who is a child may be accompanied by one parent, guardian or family member. Visitors who require assistance may also be accompanied by an additional family member. Virtual visits are strongly encouraged and supported where in-person visits are not possible.

Long-term care: A Public Health Order restricts visitors to immediate family members and spiritual advisor of residents who are clinically assessed to be at end-of-life. A very limited number of exemptions will be granted in exceptional cases.

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. 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/>.

