

## Daily update – March 12, 2020

The World Health Organization continues to monitor cases of COVID-19 worldwide. In British Columbia, there have been 53 positive COVID-19 cases to date. Of these cases, six in the Vancouver Coastal Health region have now fully recovered. Today, Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry announced seven new cases in the province, with three of them related to travel outside of Canada.

Vancouver Coastal Health is also notifying attendees of the Pacific Dental Conference 2020 at the Vancouver Convention Centre about a possible exposure to COVID-19 on March 6. A person who has tested positive for COVID-19 attended the conference on March 6 between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. The attendee is now recovering at home and there is no ongoing risk to the community, or at the Vancouver Convention Centre. All of the positive cases identified in B.C. have been isolated and public health officials have actively monitored them and any close contacts to ensure there is no ongoing risk posed to the public.

While community transmission is not widespread in B.C. and the risk remains low, it is increasing. Today Dr. Henry and Minister of Health Adrian Dix advised B.C. residents against all non-essential travel outside of Canada. Those who do travel outside the country are advised to closely monitor themselves for symptoms and avoid contact with others for 14 days after returning home. This includes remaining home from school or work and avoiding crowded places.

Dr. Henry and Minister Dix also advised that any events or large gatherings of more than 250 people should be cancelled, including faith-based events. At this time, they are not recommending any school closures.

VCH Medical Health Officers, our provincial partners and the Public Health Agency of Canada continue to actively monitor the situation regarding COVID-19, which has been assessed by the World Health Organization as a pandemic. The Public Health Agency of Canada continues to reassure the public that the risk to Canadians is low and that our health care systems are well positioned to identify and manage any further possible cases.

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/>

