

Daily update – March 13, 2020

The World Health Organization continues to monitor cases of COVID-19 worldwide. In British Columbia, there have been 64 positive COVID-19 cases to date. Of these cases, four in the Vancouver Coastal Health region have now fully recovered. Today, Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry announced 11 new cases in the province.

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, the Government of Canada advised against non-essential travel outside of Canada, including to the United States. 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 also issued an order prohibiting events or large gatherings of more than 250 people should be cancelled, including faith-based events.

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/>

