

Daily Update – May 13, 2020

Briefing with Dr. Henry

At today's health briefing Dr. Bonnie Henry, provincial health officer, reported 16 new cases of COVID-19 in B.C., bringing the total number of people who have tested positive to 2,376 since the pandemic began. Of those, 877 have been in the Vancouver Coastal Health region. The number of people in hospitals throughout B.C. sits at 59, including 14 people in critical care, and 1,859 people, or about 78 per cent, are considered fully recovered. There are 20 active outbreaks in long-term care, assisted living, and acute care throughout B.C.

Please take the BC COVID-19 survey

Dr. Henry said more than 75,000 residents of B.C. have already responded to the population health survey announced yesterday. It's intended to gather information about how COVID-19 has impacted health and well-being, and to help guide the response in the months to come. The [BC COVID-19 survey: your story, our future](#) is available online in English and simplified Chinese. At the end of the survey, participants are asked about their interest in taking part in two future initiatives: A serology survey (blood testing) to help determine immunity across the population, and planning for digital tools to help identify and manage COVID-19 infections.

First serological test authorized by Health Canada

Earlier today, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Health Canada has authorized the first serological test for COVID-19 antibodies. This is a critical step for the work of the COVID-19 Immunity Task Force, which now has a safe and approved test that can detect antibodies specific to COVID-19, in an individual's blood. These tests will help us better understand immunity against the virus and how it spreads so we can keep Canadians safe and healthy.

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 <http://www.vch.ca/covid-19>.



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/>.

