

Daily Update – May 19, 2020

In today's daily briefing, Dr. Bonnie Henry, provincial health officer, reported two new cases of COVID-19 in B.C., bringing the total number of people who have tested positive to 2,446 since the pandemic began. Of those, 883 have been in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region. The number of people in hospitals throughout B.C. sits at 45, including 12 people in critical care, and 1,975 people are considered fully recovered. There are still 19 active outbreaks in long-term care, assisted living, and acute care throughout B.C. One more person has died in the VCH region; we offer our condolences to their family, friends and caregivers, as well as to everyone who has lost their loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Phase 2 of B.C.'s Restart Plan

Today marked the beginning of Phase 2 of B.C.'s [Restart Plan](#). In this phase, people are asked to stay close to home and avoid any travel between communities that is not essential. Sectors that can now reopen under enhanced protocols include:

- Restoration of health services
- Re-scheduling elective surgery
- Medically related services:
 - Dentistry, physiotherapy, registered massage therapy, and chiropractors
 - Physical therapy, speech therapy, and similar services
- Retail sector
- Hair salons, barbers, and other personal service establishments
- In-person counselling
- Restaurants, cafes, and pubs (with sufficient distancing measures)
- Museums, art galleries, and libraries
- Office-based worksites
- Recreation and sports
- Parks, beaches, and outdoor spaces
- Child care

Pandemic pay supports front-line health-care workers

Earlier today, Carole James, Minister of Finance, announced that health and social service workers delivering in-person, front-line care to some of B.C.'s most vulnerable people will receive a financial boost through temporary COVID-19 pandemic pay. More than 250,000 eligible front-line workers will receive temporary pandemic pay, a lump-sum payment of about \$4 per hour for a 16-week period, starting on March 15, 2020. Eligible workers will receive the payment directly through their employer and do not need to apply.

Canada-U.S. border closure extended

Earlier today, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced an extension of the mutual ban on non-essential cross-border travel until June 21. The agreement, which prohibits non-essential travel while permitting trade shipments, commerce and essential workers to continue to move in both directions, was first reached in mid-March and extended for 30 days last month.

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/>.

