

Daily Update – May 20, 2020

Ministry of Health update

In a joint statement, Dr. Bonnie Henry, provincial health officer, and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, reported 21 new cases of COVID-19 in B.C., bringing the total number of people who have tested positive to 2,467 since the pandemic began. Of those, 885 have been in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region. The number of people in hospitals throughout B.C. sits at 43, including 10 people in critical care, and 2,001 people are considered fully recovered. There are 18 active outbreaks in long-term care, assisted living, and acute care throughout B.C. One more person has died in the VCH region; our hearts go out to their friends and family.

The use of non-medical masks

Earlier today, Dr. Theresa Tam, Canada's chief public health officer, spoke about the use of non-medical masks or cloth face coverings in public settings. When it is difficult to keep a safe physical distance for an extended period of time — for example, when you are on transit — this is a good way for you to protect those around you. It's important to remember that face coverings keep our droplets in and don't prevent transmission from others. The best ways for us to stay safe is to wash our hands, maintain a safe physical distance from others and keep our "rules" for social interactions top of mind.

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/>.

