

Daily Update – May 22, 2020

Ministry of Health update

In a joint statement, Dr. Bonnie Henry, provincial health officer, and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, reported 18 new cases of COVID-19 in B.C., bringing the total number of people who have tested positive to 2,507 since the pandemic began. Of those, 888 have been in the Vancouver Coastal Health region. The number of people in hospitals throughout B.C. sits at 41, including 8 people in critical care, and 2,042 people are considered fully recovered.

There have been no new health-care outbreaks, and the outbreak at Lions Gate Hospital has been declared over. In total, 14 long-term care or assisted-living facilities and two acute-care units have active outbreaks.

In today's statement, Dr. Henry also amended the order restricting mass gatherings to no more than 50 individuals to also include no more than 50 vehicles for outdoor drive-in events, with a restriction on the sale of refreshments. Anyone attending these events must stay in their cars unless they have to go to washrooms, which must be serviced with running water for proper hand hygiene.

Bigger patio spaces

Also today, the provincial government announced it is allowing businesses like restaurants, cafes and breweries to make their patios bigger so they can serve more people at a proper distance, as B.C. reopens its economy. A statement said food-primary, liquor-primary and manufacturer licensees, including breweries, wineries and distilleries, are now allowed to apply to expand their service licence to include a larger area. The expansion approval will last until Oct. 31.

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/>.