

Daily Update – May 28, 2020

Briefing with Dr. Henry

In today's daily briefing, Dr. Bonnie Henry, provincial health officer, reported nine new cases of COVID-19 in B.C., bringing the total number of people who have tested positive to 2,558 since the pandemic began. Of those, 899 have been in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region. The number of people in hospitals throughout B.C. sits at 33, including six people in critical care, and 2,153 people are considered fully recovered. There are still 16 active outbreaks in long-term care, assisted living, and acute care throughout B.C.

Provincial state of emergency extended

Health Minister Adrian Dix provided an update on progress on surgery. From March 16 to May 17, an estimated 30,000 non-urgent, elective surgeries were postponed throughout the province, while 23,385 urgent surgeries and emergency surgeries took place in that time. This week, the number of completed surgeries is 27,349, for an increase of 3,817. On May 7, the commitment to surgery renewal was announced, and by May 13, 6,884 people across B.C. had been contacted by staff to discuss rescheduling surgeries. That number increased to 12,016 by May 17, and is now 17,978 patients contacted about rescheduling surgeries. Target timelines are as follows: On May 31, all contracted private surgical facilities will be working at maximum capacity and by June 15, all existing operating rooms will be running at full capacity. From June 15 to Oct. 15 we will add resources and capacity by extending daily hours of operation, adding Saturdays and Sundays to the schedule, and opening new operating rooms.

Recreation amenities reopening in Vancouver

The Vancouver Park Board announced it will begin reopening more than 320 outdoor recreation amenities across the city tomorrow including skate parks, synthetic sports fields, basketball and volleyball courts, disc golf, roller hockey, multisport courts, and 166 playgrounds. The outdoor recreation facilities will be available for casual use only, meaning residents are encouraged to practice individual skills or play for fun with others in their household. Organized competitive play or training will not be permitted at this time. Guidelines for casual play include:

- Maintain two metres distance from others who are not in your household
- Wash and/or sanitize your hands frequently
- Disinfect personal equipment before and after use
- Do not share equipment
- Stay home if you feel sick

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/>.

