In an effort to keep our community partners connected, we are providing you with regular COVID-19 updates.

**Ministry of Health Update**
In today’s Ministry of Health briefing, Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, reported 274 new cases of COVID-19, for a total of 12,331 cases in B.C. since the pandemic began. Of those, 4,260 are in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region. Currently, 71 individuals are hospitalized with COVID-19, 24 of whom are in intensive care. The remaining people are recovering at home in self-isolation. There were no new deaths, keeping the total number at 256.

VCH Assisted living, long-term care homes and seniors’ rental buildings with ongoing COVID-19 outbreaks are:
- Point Grey Private Hospital
- Royal Arch Masonic Home
- Haro Park Centre (entire facility)
- Three Links Care Centre.

**Social Gatherings**
There was a record number of COVID-19 cases in British Columbia today. Dr. Henry expressed concern over this surge, attributing it to large social gatherings being held either in venues or peoples’ homes (ex. weddings, parties, funerals). She elaborates:

“The new cases stemming from social gatherings are now spilling over and causing clusters and outbreaks in long-term care facilities, workplaces and schools right across our province. Let’s remember that when we come together with family and friends, we bring our risks with us and, in turn, they take those risks back home with them.

This means that right now, every gathering, event or occasion needs to be small. We need to stick with our immediate household and safe six only. Now is the time to slow down, stay small and plan the party for next year; to show we care by keeping our friends and family off the invite list this fall and winter.”

**First School Outbreak**
Since September, there have been 213 school exposure events, 6 clusters and just one exposure out of the more than 2,000 schools across the province.

Yesterday, the first school outbreak in B.C. was declared at the Kelowna French-language school École de l’Anse-au-sable. Initially, three cases were identified and today there are up to 5 related cases in the school community. 160 people in the school community are self-isolating; Public Health teams are onsite and working with the school team.

**Testing**
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 centres can be found by visiting: [http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing) or by calling 8-1-1. For more information and latest updates on COVID-19, follow the BC Centre for Disease Control on Twitter @CDCofBC or visit the website: [http://www.bccdc.ca/](http://www.bccdc.ca/).

**Other Resources**
To find the Provincial Health Officer’s orders, visit:

To see a map of COVID-19 cases by local health area, visit:
[http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data)

For a listing of the community exposure events, go to: [http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/public-exposures](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/public-exposures)
For the latest medical updates, including case counts, prevention, risks and testing, visit: http://www.bccdc.ca/

For community engagement opportunities at VCH, see: http://cean.vch.ca/members/current-opportunities/