

LATEST UPDATE – October 8th, 2020

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 110 new cases of COVID-19, for a total of 10,066 cases in B.C. since the pandemic began. Of those, 3,693 are in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region. Currently, 76 individuals are hospitalized with COVID-19, 17 of whom are in intensive care. We have had one additional death in the VCH region, bringing the provincial total to 245. The remaining people are recovering at home in self-isolation. VCH Assisted living, long-term care homes and seniors' rental buildings with ongoing COVID-19 outbreaks are:

- Point Grey Private Hospital long-term care facility
- Banfield Pavilion (fourth floor west) long-term care facility
- Haro Park Centre long-term care facility.

Statement from Dr. Bonnie Henry

There are now more than 10,000 diagnosed COVID-19 cases in the province since January 2020, a number that is likely underrepresented. In the last 24 hours, more than 12,000 tests were administered in B.C., and the percent of positive cases vs. tests administered remains low. While B.C. has fared better than other parts of the world, a large number of people have been affected and we need to stay vigilant. Dr. Henry is encouraging British Columbians to stay close to home and in small numbers for the Thanksgiving long weekend to prevent inadvertently passing the virus on to loved ones.

Thanksgiving Guidelines

The BCCDC has released some tips on "Safer Celebrations" just in time for Thanksgiving, ranging from hosting to attending an event. The complete guidelines can be found here: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/social-interactions/safer-celebrations>

New North Shore Testing Site Opens

A new COVID-19 collection centre opened today in North Vancouver, thanks to a partnership between Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) and ICBC. The new testing site, located in the Capilano Claim Centre, 255 Lloyd Avenue, is indoors and will provide additional capacity to assess North Shore residents for COVID-19. The site is open daily from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., and can accommodate both walk-in and drive-through clients, ages four and up. An expected 450 to 600 tests will be administered at the site each day. The existing collection centre located in the parking lot of Centennial Theatre, on Lonsdale Avenue, will remain open until 7 p.m., Wednesday, October 7. For more information on COVID-19 and testing, please visit www.vch.ca/COVID-19.

Geographical Distribution of COVID-19

The BCCDC cases by local health area map has been updated today, showing the geographical breakdown of cumulative cases between January and September 2020: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data>

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> 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/>.

Other Resources

To find the Provincial Health Officer's orders, visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

To see a map of COVID-19 cases by local health area, visit:

<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>

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/>