

Latest Update – July 20, 2020

Ministry of Health update

In today's Ministry of Health briefing, Dr. Bonnie Henry, provincial health officer, and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, reported 102 new cases of COVID-19 in B.C. since last Friday, bringing the total number of cases to 3,300 since the pandemic began. Of those, 1,042 have been in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region. There are 253 active cases of COVID-19 in the province and 2,858 people who tested positive have recovered. The number of people in hospitals throughout B.C. is 16, including four people in critical care. One long-term care facility, and two acute care facilities continue to have active outbreaks in B.C.

Epidemiological modelling

Dr. Henry updated modelling information. Though the statistics still show the median age as around 50, the cases reported over the past several days are of people in their 20s and 30s; the next modelling presentation will reflect that. The median age of death is 85. We know where most people were infected, thanks to the work of contact tracing. We are starting to see people who are testing positive having a large number of contacts again. We are at about 65 to 70 per cent of our pre-Covid contacts, said Dr. Henry. We knew that would happen, but the challenge is we are no longer having safe connections and that is what is spreading the virus. Small parties, resorts, homes, restaurants, bars and clubs, both indoors and outdoors, but spending time together and then mixing groups. That makes it challenging to find contacts in a timely way. The modelling shows our curve is beginning to bend back up, which shows we have the possibility of explosive growth in B.C. A rapid rebound is a possibility but not a foregone conclusion.

Your story, our future – population health survey

Dr. Henry also reported some of the results from the population health survey recently conducted in B.C. One in 10 adults in British Columbia completed the survey, or about 394,000 people. More than 70 per cent of respondents were female, so the sample will be weighted. Preliminary findings show that 4/5 of B.C. residents approved of the public health response,



and that most people were following public health advice. A significant percentage of respondents felt mental health worsened throughout the pandemic. Other findings included:

- About 1/3 of people said they had difficulty accessing health care
- 15% worried about feeding their families; 5% worried about keeping a roof over their heads.
- 15% were not working because of COVID-19
- 69% felt there was some impairment in work due to COVID
- 2/3 felt family members might be vulnerable
- 1/3 increased financial difficulties
- Young people bore a greater percentage of the burden. Not working, restaurants, retail, arts.
- We flattened the curve but it came with significant challenges
- Elders and seniors have a sense of resiliency

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 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. The Richmond Assessment Centre is located at 6820 Gilbert Road, in the parking lot of the Richmond Tennis Club. 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 www.vch.ca/COVID19.





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/>.

