

LATEST UPDATE – October 14th, 2020

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

Ministry of Health Update

In yesterday's Ministry of Health briefing, Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, reported 549 new cases of COVID-19 over a four day period, for a total of 10,734 cases in B.C. since the pandemic began. Of those, 3,892 are in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region. Currently, 77 individuals are hospitalized with COVID-19, 24 of whom are in intensive care. We have had five additional deaths in B.C. (including 3 in the VCH region), bringing the provincial total to 250. 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
- Banfield Pavilion (fourth floor west and fourth floor east)
- Haro Park Centre (entire facility)
- Yaletown House (2nd floor)
- Weinberg Residence Multi-Level Care.

The increased number of cases reported yesterday comes partly from a backlog of tests at the lab level, mainly in the Fraser Health region. This resulted in an extra day's worth of tests (around 6,000) being processed. Despite an overall increase in numbers, active cases and the percent of positive tests remain stable. There were 39,170 tests processed from Oct. 10-12, but only 1.3% of these were positive.

Dr. Henry also issued a preventative reminder about recreational sports for both players and spectators in yesterday's briefing:

"As recreational sports like hockey and youth soccer return, we have seen an increase in COVID-19 exposures. In some cases, sport facilities have been closed. Like many other activities that have restarted, provincial sports organizations and sports facilities require COVID-19 safety plans to ensure a safe return to sport. Similar to the approach in the recent NHL playoffs, the plans have prioritized the players over the spectators, with restrictions in place in arenas and on the sidelines. We have to remember that spending time socializing or cheering with other parents and fans before, during and after games, increases the risk of transmission and exposure for you and your family. As much as we want to see the winning goal or celebrate the perfect pass after the game, we need to ensure we are keeping ourselves and our loved ones safe by always following our COVID-19 safety basics. It is important for all of us to think about our cumulative interactions. If you are in a busy workplace or have kids in school, then it is all the more important to limit your time with others elsewhere."

New Powell River Testing Site Opens

COVID-19 assessment and test collection is now available at the Powell River Complex Clinic, a new site opened by Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) and the Powell River Division of Family Practice (PRDoFP). Located on the upper level of the Powell River Recreation Complex, the clinic will provide additional capacity to assess local residents for COVID-19.

Read the full media release here: <http://www.vch.ca/about-us/news/news-releases/new-powell-river-complex-clinic-offers-covid-19-assessment-and-test-collection>

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. 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/>