

COVID-19 UPDATE – April 2nd, 2020

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

Key Updates for April 2nd, 2020

- For a full list of updates from VCH visit vch.ca
- Alternate care site to be mobilized at the Vancouver Convention Centre
- 1121 cases of COVID-19 in BC to date with over half of patients fully recovered
- Travelers reminded of requirements when returning to Canada and avoiding non-essential trips to small and remote towns
- Premier announces economic measures to support British Columbians
- Canada receives more masks and working on getting more face shields for health care workers

Alternate care site at Vancouver Convention Centre

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) – in partnership with the Ministry of Health, Providence Health Care, Health Emergency Management BC, the Canadian Red Cross and B.C.'s Mobile Medical Unit – is mobilizing an alternate care site at the Vancouver Convention Centre, as part of its COVID-19 preparedness planning. While VCH continues to be cautiously optimistic that the COVID-19 curve can be flattened, precautionary steps continue to be taken, including setting up an alternate care site, as part of the pandemic response.

The purpose of the alternate care site is to add more bed capacity for less serious, non-COVID-19 patients to allow additional capacity within regional hospitals for critically ill COVID-19 patients who may need access to our critical care units. The alternate care site will increase health-care capacity across the province, augment existing hospital infrastructure and provide additional bed capacity across VCH and the province.

Updated number of cases in B.C.

The number of cases continues to rise, although at today's briefing, Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry expressed cautious optimism that we are flattening the curve in British Columbia, and asked the public to continue to do its part with physical distancing. She said 55 more people have tested positive for COVID-19, bringing the total to date in B.C. to 1,121 confirmed cases. Well over half of all patients in B.C. — 641 — have fully recovered. In the Vancouver Coastal Health region, there have been 525 confirmed cases since the pandemic began.

Travel Requirements

Both Dr. Henry and Health Minister Adrian Dix reminded travelers of the requirement to self-isolate for 14 days after returning to Canada, and Dr. Henry also asked the public not to do any non-essential travel to B.C.'s small and remote towns during this crisis, as many don't have capacity to care for additional patients.

Economic Support for B.C.

Earlier today, Premier John Horgan announced a new Economic Recovery Task Force that will bring together leaders from business, labour, First Nations and not-for-profits to help ensure the Province's economic response to COVID-19 is effective and responsive to the needs of British Columbians. Other new measures announced in B.C. today include:

- Steps to protect those providing essential services by ensuring they cannot be held liable for damages caused by exposure to COVID-19 while continuing to operate, so long as they are complying with orders from the provincial health officer and other authorities.
- A series of temporary supports and supplements to ensure B.C.'s most vulnerable — including people on income or disability assistance and low-income seniors — do not encounter additional barriers during the COVID-19 crisis.

Personal Protective Equipment

Federally, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said Canada received over a million masks on Wednesday evening – in addition to 10 million over last few days – and is working to validate and distribute them across the country. He also said hockey gear maker Bauer is manufacturing face shields for Canada's doctors and nurses.

Key Messages to Share

- Practice [physical distancing](#) if you have to go out
- If you think you have COVID-19 take the self-assessment here: covid19.thrive.health
- Self-isolate at home for 10 days if you have COVID-19 symptoms