

COVID-19 UPDATE – April 8th, 2020

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

Key Updates for April 8th, 2020

- For a full list of updates from VCH visit vch.ca
- VCH has implemented several measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and flatten the curve
- As of today there are 1336 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in BC
- Premier Horgan announced travelers returning to BC are required to present formal self-isolation plans

VCH Preparations for COVID-19

Over the past several weeks, Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) has been working closely with the Ministry of Health to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and flatten the curve. The planning underway is to ensure all communities have the support, resources and supplies they need to manage the spread of COVID-19 in our acute and long term care facilities as well as in the community.

A number of measures are in place including:

- Freeing up additional beds through the postponement of surgeries, non-emergency procedures and the movement of patients to alternative settings;
- Additional training for staff and physicians in the use of personal protective equipment and providing care to COVID-19 patients;
- Dedicated sections in our health care sites to safely care for non-COVID-19, suspected and confirmed COVID-19 patients
- Restricting visitors to essential visits only at all VCH facilities. These visits include compassionate care and visits paramount to patient, client, resident care and well-being, such as assistance with feeding/mobility. Existing registered volunteers providing services will also be exempted.
- At our long-term care homes, VCH has issued a Public Health Order further restricting visitation to family members and spiritual advisors of residents who are clinically assessed to be at the end of their lives.

VCH wants to reassure the public that our emergency departments can safely receive and care for individuals who experience health conditions that require emergency care. Please do not delay in seeking care as this could exacerbate your condition.

Update on COVID-19 Cases

At the latest briefing, Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry announced 45 new cases of COVID-19 in B.C., bringing the total to date to 1,336 confirmed cases with 838 people fully recovered. In the VCH region, there have been 615 confirmed cases since the pandemic began. Although there are no new outbreaks to report in long-term care facilities, they continue to be a focus of our work. Dr. Henry reported five more deaths in B.C. since yesterday. Our hearts are with their friends and family, and with all the loved ones of those who have died.

Self-Isolation Plans required for returning travelers

Earlier today, Premier John Horgan announced that every traveler returning to B.C. from abroad will now be required to present a formal self-isolation plan to provincial and federal authorities before they are allowed into the province. The new legal requirement is effective immediately at land borders, as well as Vancouver International Airport. Travelers' plans must show, in detail, that they have supports in place to safely self-isolate for 14 days. The plans will have to be approved by authorities before passengers can move forward. Those who do not have a plan will be sent to a "quarantine site" until they have a plan in place.

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