

Daily Update – April 27, 2020

In today's Ministry of Health briefing, Dr. Bonnie Henry and Minister of Health Adrian Dix said B.C. is getting closer to lifting some of the restrictions on daily life and business activity. They said a "made-in-B.C." approach will keep five priorities in mind: limiting transmission of the virus as much as possible; making sure hospitals aren't overwhelmed; ensuring non-COVID health problems are being addressed; restarting the economy; and allowing for social interaction.

During the briefing, Dr. Henry announced that 39 new cases of COVID-19 were detected from Saturday to Sunday, and an additional 11 patients confirmed from Sunday to Monday, bringing the total number of people who have tested positive in B.C. to 1,998 since the pandemic began. The number of people in hospital sits at 97, of those, 36 people are in critical care, and 1,190 people are considered fully recovered. There are 21 active outbreaks in long-term care, and three in acute care units of Lower Mainland hospitals. Twelve outbreaks in these facilities have now been declared over. She also announced that three more people have died from COVID-19; our condolences go to families who have lost loved ones.

Dr. Henry also said new testing guidelines, which provide testing for anyone with symptoms, has allowed for greater surveillance of the disease's spread, but the majority of new confirmed cases continue to be connected to known outbreaks.

Earlier today, Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) distributed a [bulletin](#) about the next phase of COVID-19 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. Testing can be done through a primary care provider, walk-in clinic, urgent and primary care centre or community collection centre. COVID-19 testing is not recommended for people without symptoms. 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. If you think you need testing, please call ahead before visiting your doctor, urgent and primary care center or health clinic.

On Saturday, Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety, Shane Simpson, Minister for Social Development and Poverty Reduction, and Judy Darcy, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, announced a public safety order to move homeless people living in Oppenheimer Park into hotels during the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan is supported by an order under the Emergency Program Act and the ongoing provincial state of emergency. The deadline for the transition is May 9, with a plan to move 15 to 20 people into accommodations per day.

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 and latest updates on COVID-19, follow the BC Centre for Disease Control on Twitter @CDCofBC or visit the website: <http://www.bccdc.ca/>.

