

COVID-19 UPDATE – April 29th, 2020

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

Key Updates for April 29th, 2020

- For a full list of updates from VCH visit vch.ca
- Update on COVID-19 cases
- VCH implementing an Inner-City COVID-19 Response Strategy
- COVID-19 Q&A Livestream on Twitter April 30th
- CBC News Story: In the Hot Zone: On the front lines of the COVID-19 battle at B.C.'s biggest hospital

Update on COVID-19 cases

Provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry announced 55 new cases of COVID-19 in British Columbia yesterday, bringing the total to date to 2,053 confirmed cases; 803 have been in Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH). Currently 94 people are hospitalized throughout the province as a result of the virus, with 37 patients in critical care, and 1,231 people are fully recovered. There are still 20 long-term care and assisted living residences under outbreak protocol, and three outbreaks in acute care units. We have one additional death in VCH - our hearts go out to their friends and family.

VCH Implementing an Inner-City COVID-19 Response Strategy

Also yesterday, VCH released our Inner-City COVID-19 Response Strategy document, to reduce the impacts of the opioid overdose and COVID-19 public health emergencies for people living in Vancouver's inner-city communities, including the Downtown Eastside (DTES). The strategy takes a three-pillar approach – Prevent, Test and Trace, and Support – to ensure a coordinated, comprehensive response. Much of the work is already underway.

- **Prevent:** Helping to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 among vulnerable people in the DTES and care providers working in the community.
- **Test and Trace:** Ensuring access to testing for vulnerable people and care providers in the DTES, as well as public health follow-up for any suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19.
- **Support:** Ensuring vulnerable people have access to the care they need to be safe in the community, including access to overdose prevention services, temporary housing, and clinical care needed to safely self-isolate for those who have been exposed to, or diagnosed with, COVID-19.

You can view the news release [here](#). The strategy document can be viewed [here](#). As a reminder, our website has the latest information about our response to the COVID-19 pandemic at vch.ca.

COVID-19 Q&A Livestream on Twitter

Have questions about COVID-19? On Thursday, April 30, at 12pm people in the VCH region can join Vancouver Coastal Health Medical Health Officer Dr. Mark Lysyshyn live to get their questions answered in real-time. For this week's Q&A, join us on Twitter (@vchhealthcare). Already have questions? Post them here in the [Facebook Event](#). Link to watch LIVE on April 30: <https://twitter.com/VCHhealthcare>

CBC News Story: In the Hot Zone: On the front lines of the COVID-19 battle at B.C.'s biggest hospital

Get a look inside the specialized COVID-19 unit at Vancouver General Hospital in this exclusive story by CBC: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/behind-the-front-lines-of-the-covid-19-battle-at-b-c-s-biggest-hospital-1.5547301>

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