

## COVID-19 UPDATE – May 13th, 2020

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

### Key Updates for May 13th, 2020

- For a full list of updates from VCH visit [vch.ca](http://vch.ca)
- Update on COVID-19 Cases
- Please take the BC COVID-19 survey
- VCH releases info about a COVID-19 clinical study
- New federal measures to support seniors

### Update on COVID-19 Cases

In yesterday's daily briefing, Dr. Bonnie Henry, provincial health officer, reported a total of seven new cases of COVID-19 in B.C., bringing the total number of people who have tested positive to 2,360 since the pandemic began. Of those, 874 have been in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region. The number of people in hospitals throughout B.C. sits at 63, including 16 people in critical care, and 1,832 people are considered fully recovered. There are still 19 active outbreaks in long-term care, assisted living, and acute care throughout B.C.

### Please take the BC COVID-19 survey

Dr. Henry also called on all British Columbians 18 and over to take part in a new population health survey intended to gather information about how COVID-19 has impacted their health and well-being, and to help guide the COVID-19 pandemic response in the months to come. The [BC COVID-19 survey: your story, our future](#) is available online in English and simplified Chinese. At the end of the survey, participants are asked about their interest in taking part in two future initiatives: A serology survey (blood testing) to help determine immunity across the population, and planning for digital tools to help identify and manage COVID-19 infections.

### VCH releases info about a COVID-19 clinical study

VCH distributed a [news release](#) yesterday about a clinical study examining the immune-system response of patients with COVID-19. A small team led Dr. Mypinder Sekhon, an intensive care physician at VGH and Dr. Cheryl Wellington, a Professor in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of British Columbia (UBC), are retrieving and processing blood samples from critically ill COVID-19 patients at Vancouver General and Surrey Memorial Hospital. In some patients it appears that an excessive immune response, rather than the virus itself, leads to lung damage. If identified and treated, patients may improve more quickly. The research is funded in part by donations to VGH & UBC Hospital Foundation.

### New federal measures to support seniors

Yesterday Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced new measures to support seniors. Those receiving Old Age Security will get an additional \$300 to offset extra costs incurred because of the virus. Those who are eligible for the Guaranteed Income Supplement will also receive an extra \$200. These measures are in addition to the \$20 million in funding recently announced for the New Horizons for Seniors program so that organizations can provide delivery services and help seniors stay in touch with family during the pandemic. He also reminded Canadians to protect the health of our seniors by following guidance from Public Health, and to stay in touch with the seniors in our lives to help protect their mental health as well. He suggested writing a letter or a postcard to isolated seniors or volunteering with a local organization to fight the isolation of seniors.

### 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](http://covid19.thrive.health)
- Self-isolate at home for 10 days if you have COVID-19 symptoms
- Find helpful posters, handouts and other resources about COVID-19 [here](#).