

## COVID-19 UPDATE – June 11th, 2020

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

### Key Updates for June 11th, 2020

For a full list of updates from VCH visit [vch.ca](http://vch.ca)

- Update on COVID-19 Cases
- Modified health order for food service establishments
- Highest number of overdose deaths in May

### Update on COVID-19 Cases

In today's daily briefing, Dr. Bonnie Henry, provincial health officer, reported 14 new cases of COVID-19 in B.C., bringing the total number of cases to 2,694 since the pandemic began. Of those, 917 have been in the Vancouver Coastal Health region. There are 183 active cases of COVID-19 in the province and 2,344 people who tested positive have recovered. The number of people in hospitals throughout B.C. is 13, including five people in critical care. Five long-term care or assisted-living facilities continue to have active outbreaks in B.C.

### Modified health order for food service establishments

Dr. Henry also announced that she is modifying the restrictions on restaurants that required them to operate at 50 per cent of their regular capacity. Instead, restaurants must determine how many people they can serve while still maintaining a two-metre distance between groups. Operators are required to monitor their premises to make sure that capacity isn't exceeded and those distances are maintained, including in line-ups. The order says there can be no more than six people in any party, and if a two-metre distance can't be maintained between tables, a Plexiglas partition should be installed.

### Highest number of overdose deaths in May

The BC Coroners Service has published updated reports on illicit drug toxicity deaths and fentanyl-detected drug deaths to the end of May 2020. The 170 illicit drug toxicity deaths reported in May mark the highest monthly total ever in British Columbia.

Judy Darcy, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, said in a statement that with the immense pressure of two public health emergencies, many unprecedented factors are bearing down swiftly on us all at once. Borders are closed and the usual illegal supply chains are disrupted, leading to drugs that are more toxic than ever. Unemployment, social isolation, declining mental health and increased alcohol and substance use are the reality for many. Measures taken in the past three months to try and protect people include providing safe prescription alternatives, support for overdose prevention and supervised consumption sites to remain open under new COVID-19 protocols, and the new Lifeguard app to help protect people who are having to use alone right now. Next week, a 24/7 helpline for prescribers and pharmacists will launch that will provide live, in-the-moment support to doctors, pharmacists and nurse practitioners while they are treating patients with opioid use disorder.

If you, or someone you love, uses illicit drugs, those drugs are incredibly toxic and even more poisoned than before. Have a plan. Buddy up so you're not using poisoned drugs alone. Use the Lifeguard app – it will signal for help if you need it. Continue to visit OPS and supervised consumption services sites. They are open and are essential services in B.C. Carry naloxone. You can pick up your kit free at any pharmacy. Know the signs of an overdose so someone can call 911 to get help right away.

### 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](https://covid19.thrive.health)
- 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 <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing>
- Self-isolate at home for 10 days if you have COVID-19 symptoms
- Find helpful posters, handouts and other resources about COVID-19 [here](#).