

## COVID-19 UPDATE – June 17th, 2020

---

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

### Key Updates for June 17th, 2020

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

- Update on COVID-19 Cases
- Child care support
- CERB extended
- Border closure extended

### Update on COVID-19 Cases

At yesterday's daily briefing, Dr. Bonnie Henry, provincial health officer, reported 11 new cases of COVID-19 in B.C., bringing the total number of cases to 2,756 since the pandemic began. Of those, 940 have been in the Vancouver Coastal Health region. There are 172 active cases of COVID-19 in the province and 2,460 people who tested positive have recovered. The number of people in hospitals throughout B.C. is 11, including five people in critical care. Five long-term care facilities continue to have active outbreaks in B.C.

### Child care support

The temporary emergency funding program (TEF) for licensed child care centres is being extended until Aug. 31, 2020, announced the B.C. Ministry of Children and Family Development. The funding is a key part of the province's COVID-19 response, as it helps to ensure essential-service workers have access to safe, reliable child care and parents can return to work as the economy restarts and more B.C. businesses open. It also ensures that child care centres are holding spots, free of charge, for their existing families who may choose to stay home with their children through the summer. Communicating this timeline well in advance will allow child care providers, as well as parents, sufficient time to plan their next steps. The funding supports open centres to operate with reduced enrolment and helps those that are temporarily closed to cover fixed costs, like rent or lease payments. In addition, the province will require operators to use any surplus TEF – after meeting funding and health guidelines – to provide their early childhood educators (ECEs) with temporary wage enhancements or other compensation, such as training or benefits.

### CERB extended

Yesterday Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced an eight-week extension to the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB). CERB has provided taxable payments of \$2,000 for up to four months to Canadians who lost income because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Today's announcement means the financial supports will be extended for eight weeks for those who still can't work as provinces and territories gradually reopen their economies.

### Border closure extended

The prime minister also extended the Canada-U.S. border closure by another 30 days, keeping it in place until late July. An agreement has once again been reached between Canada and the United States to keep the border closed to all non-essential or "discretionary" travel for another month, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has announced. The extension on the existing agreement means the border restrictions will stay in place until July 21. It allows the flow of trade and commerce, as well as temporary foreign workers and essential workers who live and work on opposite sides of the border. Tourists and cross-border visits remain prohibited. This is the third time the agreement has been extended, after first being imposed in March, with the current extension on border restrictions set to expire June 21.

### 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](#).