

## COVID-19 UPDATE – July 30th, 2020

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

### Key Updates for July 30th, 2020

For a full list of updates from VCH visit [vch.ca/COVID19](http://vch.ca/COVID19)

- Update on COVID-19 Cases
- Students to go back to school in September

### Update on COVID-19 Cases

In yesterday's joint statement, Dr. Bonnie Henry, provincial health officer, and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, reported 41 new cases of COVID-19 in B.C. which includes a data correction from yesterday, bringing the total number of cases to 3,562 since the pandemic began. Of those, 1,071 have been in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region. There are 259 active cases of COVID-19 in the province and 3,109 people who tested positive have recovered. The number of people in hospitals throughout B.C. is six, including two people in critical care. One long-term care facility, and one acute care facility continue to have active outbreaks in B.C.

### Students to go back to school in September

Yesterday, Rob Fleming, Minister of Education, and Dr. Henry announced that enhanced safety measures and additional resources will enable most students in grades K-12 to return to school on Sept. 8, 2020, with full-time in-class learning as the province moves to Stage 2 of B.C.'s [Education Restart Plan](#). Under the plan, students will be organized into learning groups, a consistent group of staff and students. This will reduce the number of people each student or staff member will come into contact with, reducing the risk of transmission and ensuring quicker contact tracing by health authorities. All boards of education and independent school authorities will continue to be required to implement a suite of health and safety measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission, following the recently updated guidelines from the BC Centre for Disease Control. To support and ensure the health and safety of students and staff, a one-time investment of \$45.6 million as part of the BC COVID-19 Action Plan will support school districts and independent schools for the start of the school year. This investment will ensure the increased cleaning of high-contact surfaces, increased number of hand-hygiene stations and the availability of masks upon request, among other safety measures. Staff and students (or their parents/guardians) must also assess themselves daily for symptoms of COVID-19. If any student or staff member has even mild symptoms, arrangements will be made for that person to return home. Families will hear from their school district or independent school throughout the summer with updated health and safety guidelines for elementary, middle and secondary schools, as well as learning groups, schedules, enrolment and registration information with the final details being submitted to the ministry and posted online by the districts on Aug. 26, 2020.

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/>.

### 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](#).