

LATEST UPDATE – September 11th, 2020

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

Ministry of Health update

On Thursday September 10th, Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, announced a record high number of new cases of COVID-19 in the province. 139 new cases were recorded in the past day, for a total of 6,830 new cases in British Columbia. Of the total COVID-19 cases, 42 individuals are hospitalized, 14 of them in critical care or ICU. Since the start of the pandemic, there have been 2,343 cases of COVID-19 in the Vancouver Coastal Health region. More than three thousand people are currently being monitored because they are close contacts of those with COVID-19.

Economic impacts of COVID-19 on BC

The COVID-19 pandemic's impact on provincial revenues and unprecedented government spending on supports for people and businesses has led to an updated provincial deficit forecast of \$12.8 billion for the 2020-21 fiscal year. The Province's first quarterly report confirms revenue declines in taxation, natural resources and other sources that were anticipated in July. However, the overall impacts on revenues and expenses are lower, with a \$5.7-billion decline from Budget 2020, compared to a \$6.3-billion decline shown in the July scenario. Improvements from July's update include better than expected employment gains, retail sales and housing activity, resulting in revenue gains in provincial sales tax, personal income tax and property transfer tax. As part of the COVID-19 Action Plan, \$1.5 billion has been earmarked for economic recovery measures to be announced in September.

Private clinic loses constitutional challenge of public health-care rules

The B.C. Supreme Court has dismissed a lengthy court challenge of public health-care rules in B.C. The constitutional challenge launched by Dr. Brian Day, the owner of the Cambie Surgery Centre in Vancouver, claimed that prolonged wait-times for medical procedures violated charter rights, including the right to life, liberty and security of the person. In dismissing the claim, Justice John Steeves, noted that universal health care is essential for equal access to medical treatment.

Testing

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. Contact your physician or nurse practitioner's office, or a local community collection centre to arrange for a test. Phone numbers and locations of collection centre can be found by visiting: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing> or by calling 8-1-1.

To protect yourself while out in public, wash your hands frequently and maintain social distance. For more information on COVID-19, please visit www.vch.ca/COVID19. 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/>.