

LATEST UPDATE – September 3rd, 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 3, 2020, Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, announced 89 new cases of COVID-19 in the province for a total of 6,041 cases in British Columbia. Of the total COVID-19 cases, 34 individuals are hospitalized, 11 of them in critical care or ICU. Since the start of the pandemic, there have been 2,012 cases of COVID-19 in the Vancouver Coastal Health region. Two new outbreaks were announced including a single case at the Point Grey Private Hospital in Vancouver. Dr. Henry also reviewed the latest modelling, which shows the median age of those with COVID-19 is now 41, reflecting the fact that many of the new cases are in younger people aged 20-29. Hospitalization rates remain very low. The vast majority of all cases are linked to known exposure events in local areas.

Stronger mental health and substance use services to help young people thrive

Richmond is one of three B.C. communities to get a new integrated child and youth team. Better, seamless mental health and substance use care for children and youth in three more school districts will support families through the new integrated teams in Richmond, Coast Mountains and Okanagan-Similkameen. Integrated child and youth (ICY) teams work to fill gaps in the current system of mental health and substance use care. This model of care has been successful in other jurisdictions with positive results, including reduced wait times, better health outcomes and increased engagement at school. Team members may include school counsellors, youth substance use workers, child and youth mental health clinicians from the Ministry of Children and Family Development, Elders and Indigenous support workers, primary care clinicians and psychologists, as well as family and peer support workers. The team works in a continuous, interconnected way to deliver wraparound support for children, youth and their families. Judy Darcy, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions, announced the new teams outside a school in Richmond on Wednesday.

Enhanced partnership to expand health care options for clients experiencing homelessness discharged from acute care

VCH-Vancouver is expanding its partnership with the Lookout Housing and Health Society to ensure clients experiencing homelessness receive the care they need as they transition from acute care settings back into the community. As of Tuesday, September 1, 2020, the existing program will have a stronger health component by providing 15 designated beds at Lookout's Al Mitchel Shelter in the DTES. VCH will partner with Lookout by providing funding for a LPN and health resource worker position to provide clinical support, chronic condition management, wound care and assistance with basic activities of daily living as clients heal and recover from their acute care stay. Respecting current COVID-19 safety precautions, this program is in alignment with the Inner-City COVID-19 Response Strategy, as the health and safety of clients and staff are the utmost priority. VCH already partners with Lookout on many initiatives that benefit their shared clients and VCH is very happy to again be working with the organization. VCH would also like to acknowledge BC Housing's ongoing support and collaboration on this project. The project is expanding care for those who are experiencing homelessness in the DTES, when and where they need it most.

Contract awarded to design, build Broadway Subway project

The Government of B.C. has awarded a contract to the Broadway Subway Project Corporation, an Acciona-Ghella joint venture, to provide fast and frequent SkyTrain service to B.C.'s second-largest jobs centre, health-care services, an emerging innovation and research hub, and growing residential communities. The Broadway Subway is a 5.7-kilometre extension of the Millennium Line from VCC-Clark Station to Broadway and Arbutus in Vancouver. Six new underground stations will connect communities and neighbourhoods to make it easier and more affordable to live, work, shop and access services along Broadway. The contract with the Broadway Subway Project Corporation to design, construct and partially finance the Broadway Subway Project is valued at \$1.728 billion. Construction will begin in fall 2020, with the line in service in 2025.

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/>.

Take our survey

Thank you for being a valued community partner with Vancouver Coastal Health. We hope you have found our regular COVID-19 updates informative and helpful during this unprecedented time. As we move forward, we'd like to hear from you about how you'd like to stay informed and engaged with Vancouver Coastal Health on COVID-19 matters and beyond. We have prepared a brief survey, which should take approximately 5 – 10 minutes to complete, to gather some feedback from you. Please click on the link below to begin the survey. <https://hrsurveys.vch.ca/Survey.aspx?s=c6b77e2e34174c16a88af675353a1ecd>

Thank you very much for taking the time to fill out the survey! If you have any questions, please e-mail ce@vch.ca

The survey will remain open until approximately mid-September.