

LATEST UPDATE – November 9th, 2020

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

Ministry of Health Update

In today's Ministry of Health briefing, Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, reported 998 new cases of COVID-19 over the past two days, for a total of 18,714 cases in B.C. since the pandemic began. There were 210 new cases in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region. Currently, 133 individuals are hospitalized with COVID-19, 43 of whom are in intensive care. The remaining people are recovering at home in self-isolation. There were five new deaths, bringing our total number to 281. VCH Assisted living, long-term care homes and seniors' rental buildings with ongoing COVID-19 outbreaks are:

- Pinegrove Place (first floor)
- Hamilton Village Care Centre (first floor)
- Yaletown House
- Louis Brier Home & Hospital
- Banfield Pavilion (fourth floor)
- Royal Arch Masonic Home
- Haro Park Centre (third floor, special care unit)
- Three Links Care Centre.

Dr. Bonnie Henry Briefing

Dr. Henry elaborated on the new Provincial Health Officer temporary orders for Fraser Health and Vancouver Coastal Health. The goal of the orders is to break the chain of COVID-19 transmission through non-essential events such as social gatherings and travel so that essential events such as school and healthcare can safely occur in our communities.

By order, all individuals, places of work and businesses in the Lower Mainland and the Fraser Valley must significantly reduce their level of social interactions and travel. The order is in effect from November 7, 2020 at 10 p.m. to November 23, 2020 at 12 p.m.

A complete list of all the orders/regions affected can be found here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/lower-mainland>

Masks Now Mandatory in All B.C. Healthcare Sites

Protecting the wellbeing of health-care workers, non-clinical staff, patients and visitors is a priority, and it is important to recognize that our workplaces are safe. We have comprehensive safety plans in place and we are well-versed in practicing good infection prevention and control measures.

The new provincial masking policy outlines expectations for the use of face masks in all health-care facilities, programs and services, including community physician offices and outpatient clinics during the COVID-19 pandemic. For more information, visit: http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Professionals-Site/Documents/Mask_Use_Health_Care_Facilities.pdf

Open Board Forum

The VCH Board of Directors invites you to our virtual Open Board Forum at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, November 30th. This meeting is dedicated to our communities in Sea to Sky, Sunshine Coast, Powell River and the Central Coast including Bella Coola and Bella Bella. This is the Open Board Meeting that was postponed in light of the recent provincial election. Open to the public, the virtual Open Board Forum is an opportunity to join a conversation with our Board and for us to hear from you. The Board Chair and senior leaders will provide updates on COVID-19 as - more than ever – we want to stay connected to our communities in the Coastal region. To register and to send questions in advance, please email ce@vch.ca. We hope you are able to attend, and please forward this invitation to those who might be interested. The details are attached.

VCH Website and Translation Engagement

VCH is starting two important projects – the redesign of the VCH website and review of VCH translation practices. Your input in the web design project and the translation needs at VCH for safe care will help us improve our translation tools and ensure our future website is a user-friendly resource that is easy to navigate

We are hosting Zoom focus groups to hear from diverse communities we serve. To register for any of the focus group times and dates (see the attached poster), please email ce@vch.ca.

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 centres can be found by visiting: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing> or by calling 8-1-1. 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/>.

Other Resources

To find the Provincial Health Officer's orders, visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

To see a map of COVID-19 cases by local health area, visit:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data>

For a listing of the community exposure events, go to: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/public-exposures>

For the latest medical updates, including case counts, prevention, risks and testing, visit: <http://www.bccdc.ca/>

For community engagement opportunities at VCH, see: <http://cean.vch.ca/members/current-opportunities/>