

LATEST UPDATE – Dec. 1, 2020

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

Ministry of Health Update

In yesterday's media availability on B.C.'s COVID-19 response, Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, reported on COVID-19's impact over the weekend to today.

Cases counts were as follows:

- **Friday Nov. 27-Saturday Nov. 28**- 750 new cases
- **Saturday Nov. 28 –Sunday Nov. 29** - 731 new cases
- **Sunday Nov. 29-Monday Nov. 30**- 596 new cases

The case reporting issues from Fraser Health, which Dr. Henry highlighted last week, have now been resolved. An additional 277 historical cases from Nov. 18-26 were confirmed today off the back of this delay. There are currently 8,855 active cases in BC. 10,139 people are under public health monitoring. Over the three days, 46 new deaths were confirmed. This represents the highest number of COVID -19 deaths ever reported in the province at any given time. Approximately 80% of these cases lived in long-term care, emphasizing the impact the virus has on seniors.

A total of 316 people are currently hospitalized, with 75 of these receiving treatment in ICU/critical care. Our provincial ICU bed capacity now stands at 74.3%. There were five new healthcare outbreaks reported, with 2 outbreaks declared over. Dr. Henry referenced one new community outbreak at Newton Elementary in the Fraser Health region. This school has been closed for the next two weeks to prevent further transmission.

In the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region, there were 371 new cases reported.

Dr. Bonnie Henry Briefing

According to Dr. Henry, we have seen a levelling off over the weekend, and for the most part, British Columbians are doing the right things. She has heard some talk of people continuing to travel for recreational reasons and going to social gatherings. It is so important that we continue to stick with current guidelines as the virus often spreads to those who we are closest to.

Dr. Henry expressed surprise by how early we saw a rise in cases this fall, even though she did anticipate an increase in cases compared to spring/summer, as we move into 'respiratory season'. We are learning as we go. When asked if there is one thing she would like to see, she mentioned increasing our contact tracing capacity to catch up on our tracing efforts. This was something she knew they would need to plan for early on- which the government did- but she is now recognizing even further resourcing and capacity is required to keep up with the current and anticipated volume. She also stressed that while contact tracing is critical, it is also really important for people to know they can individually make a big difference through their own actions.

BCCDC COVID-19 Dashboard

To focus the work and efforts of epidemiologists to the ongoing demands associated with the pandemic, the BCCDC will be further automating their reporting of COVID-19 data.

Dr. Henry stressed it is important for us to track overall transmission trends, in addition to daily cases counts, which is just one metric of many that is considered and monitored by Public Health. The BCCDC will be adding a 7-day rolling average update to its existing COVID-19 dashboard - a metric which will offer us a more in-depth insight on how our transmission trends are tracking over time. You can access it by visiting the BCCDC website [here](#).

Dr. Henry also referenced BC's R number- a measure of the average transmission rate of the virus. As it stands, BC's R number stands at less than 2, but is still above 1.

COVID-19 Vaccine Update

Biotechnology company Moderna has now released the [final results of its clinical trials](#), revealing their vaccine demonstrates 94.1% efficacy. 11 people who received two doses developed COVID-19 symptoms after becoming infected with the virus, compared to 185 symptomatic cases in the placebo group. The company is now requesting emergency use authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and

conditional approval from the European Medicines Agency (EMA). Moderna's co-founder, Noubar Afeyan spoke to Canadian reporters to emphasize "*Canada is not at the back of the line*" to receive vaccine, and that the country will receive a portion of the company's initial batch, as Canada was among the first countries to make a pre-order.

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/>