

## LATEST UPDATE – November 2nd, 2020

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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 1,120 new cases of COVID-19 over a three day period, for a total of 15,501 cases in B.C. since the pandemic began. Of those, 4,898 are in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region. Currently, 90 individuals are hospitalized with COVID-19, 19 of whom are in intensive care. The remaining people are recovering at home in self-isolation. There were six new deaths (including five in VCH), bringing the total number to 269. VCH Assisted living, long-term care homes and seniors' rental buildings with ongoing COVID-19 outbreaks are:

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

### Dr. Reka Gustafson/Adrian Dix Briefing

As we enter the eleventh month of COVID-19 in British Columbia, the numbers of the last three days have shattered records. As the weather gets colder, people are hosting more gatherings inside. The majority of COVID-19 cases involved in this surge is in Fraser Health (830) and Vancouver Coastal Health (234), and connected with these gatherings in private homes.

Last Monday, Dr. Bonnie Henry issued a new public health order restricting the number of people at private gatherings to the members of the household and six guests maximum. This order is for both indoor and outdoor gatherings at private homes. Today, Dr. Reka Gustafson and Adrian Dix reiterated that following this order – and maintaining practices such as handwashing, social distancing and wearing masks – will be critical to reducing the number of COVID-19 cases across the province.

Dr. Gustafson also spoke about COVID-19 transmission on BC transit and said there are very good safety protocols in place. She does not believe, based on the information currently available, that being on transit is a major source of transmission. Through contact tracing, they are able to identify where an individual was infected and thus far, it's not from taking transit.

Minister Dix and the Provincial Health Officer are monitoring a number of things that will determine if tougher restrictions are needed: number of new cases, how rapidly it's changing, whether we can identify where people are infected, ability to follow up cases in a timely way, and severity of illness and minimizing death.

### 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/>