
JOINT STATEMENT

For Immediate Release
2020HLTH0053-001875
Oct. 13, 2020

Ministry of Health
Office of the Provincial Health Officer

Joint statement on B.C.'s COVID-19 response, latest updates

VICTORIA – Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.'s provincial health officer, and Stephen Brown, deputy minister of health, have issued the following joint statement regarding updates on the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) response in British Columbia:

“Today, we are announcing four 24-hour reporting periods.

“In the first reporting period from Oct. 9 to 10, we had 170 new cases. From Oct. 10 to 11, we had 159 new cases. From Oct. 11 to 12, we had 119 cases and in the last 24 hours, we have had a further 101 new cases.

“This represents a total of 549 new cases, including five epi-linked cases, for a total of 10,734 cases in British Columbia.

“The increase in cases is in part a result of a recent testing backlog, which was cleared with extra lab processing over the weekend. While this has meant an increase in the overall number of confirmed positive cases, the active cases and percentage positive remain stable.

“There are 1,476 active cases of COVID-19 in the province, 3,618 people who are under active public health monitoring as a result of identified exposure to known cases, and 8,974 people who tested positive have recovered.

“Currently, 77 individuals are hospitalized with COVID-19, 24 of whom are in intensive care. The remaining people are recovering at home in self-isolation.

“Since the start of the pandemic, there have been 3,892 cases of COVID-19 in the Vancouver Coastal Health region, 5,595 in the Fraser Health region, 235 in the Island Health region, 582 in the Interior Health region, 341 in the Northern Health region and 89 cases of people who reside outside of Canada.

“There have been five new COVID-19 related deaths, for a total of 250 deaths in British Columbia. We offer our condolences to everyone who has lost their loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“There have been four new health-care facility outbreaks. These are located at PICS assisted-living facility, Chartwell Carrington House assisted- and independent-living facility, Weinberg Residence long-term care facility and Yaletown House long-term care facility. The outbreaks at Cherington Place and Evergreen Hamlets have been declared over. In total, 17 long-term care or assisted-living facilities and three acute-care facilities have active outbreaks.

“There have been no new community outbreaks. However, there continue to be exposure

events around the province. Public alerts and notifications are posted on the BC Centre for Disease Control's (BCCDC) website and on all health authorities' websites.

"Physical activity is very important to our overall health and well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic, but equally important is the need to ensure we are staying active, safely.

"As recreational sports like hockey and youth soccer return, we have seen an increase in COVID-19 exposures. In some cases, sport facilities have been closed.

"Like many other activities that have restarted, provincial sports organizations and sports facilities require COVID-19 safety plans to ensure a safe return to sport. Similar to the approach in the recent NHL playoffs, the plans have prioritized the players over the spectators, with restrictions in place in arenas and on the sidelines.

"We have to remember that spending time socializing or cheering with other parents and fans before, during and after games, increases the risk of transmission and exposure for you and your family.

"As much as we want to see the winning goal or celebrate the perfect pass after the game, we need to ensure we are keeping ourselves and our loved ones safe by always following our COVID-19 safety basics.

"It is important for all of us to think about our cumulative interactions. If you are in a busy workplace or have kids in school, then it is all the more important to limit your time with others elsewhere.

"Each day that you choose to do the right thing, you are helping to protect our communities and keeping important activities and places open and safe. Just as we all did this past weekend, let's continue to find new ways to support each other and show we care – at a safe distance."

Learn More:

BCCDC's safer celebrations guidance: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/social-interactions/safer-celebrations>

To learn more about the Oct. 5 modelling presentation, visit: https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/COVID19_Going_Forward_Oct_2020.pdf

Guidance for Halloween during COVID-19: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/social-interactions/halloween>

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>

If you are experiencing symptoms, find a collection centre near you to get tested: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing>

For mental health and anxiety support, visit: www.bouncebackbc.ca

Or: www.anxietycanada.com

For a listing of the community exposure events, go to:

BCCDC (flights, work sites, etc): <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/public-exposures>

Fraser Health: fraserhealth.ca/covid19exposure

Interior Health: <https://news.interiorhealth.ca/news/public-exposures/>

Island Health: <https://www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/covid-19/outbreaks-and-exposures>

Northern Health: <https://www.northernhealth.ca/health-topics/outbreaks-and-exposures>

Vancouver Coastal: <http://www.vch.ca/covid-19/public-exposures>

For the latest medical updates, including case counts, prevention, risks and testing, visit: <http://www.bccdc.ca/> or follow @CDCofBC on Twitter.

For non-health related information, including financial, child care and education supports, travel, transportation and essential service information, visit: www.gov.bc.ca/covid19
Or call 1 888 COVID19 (1 888 268-4319) between 7:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. (Pacific time), seven days a week.

For the latest videos and livestreaming of COVID-19 media availabilities, visit:

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BCProvincialGovernment/

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BCGovNews>

YouTube: www.youtube.com/ProvinceofBC

Two backgrounders follow.

Contact:

Ministry of Health

Communications

250 952-1887 (media line)

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: news.gov.bc.ca/connect

BACKGROUND 1

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Assisted living, long-term care homes, seniors' rental buildings with ongoing COVID-19 outbreaks

Vancouver Coastal Health:

- Banfield Pavilion long-term care facility
- Haro Park Centre long-term care facility (second occurrence)
- Point Grey Private Hospital long-term care facility
- Weinberg Residence long-term care facility
- Yaletown House long-term care facility

Fraser Health:

- Chartwell Carrington House assisted- and independent-living facility
- Chartwell Crescent Gardens long-term care facility
- George Derby Centre long-term care facility
- Good Samaritan Delta View Care Centre long-term care facility
- Harrison West at Elim Village long-term care facility
- Kin Village assisted-living facility
- Langley Lodge long-term care facility (third occurrence)
- New Vista Care Home long-term care facility
- Peace Portal Seniors Village long-term care facility
- PICS assisted-living facility
- Thornebridge Gardens assisted-living facility
- White Rock Seniors Village long-term care facility

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BACKGROUND 2

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Personal protective equipment (PPE) update

To recap B.C.'s cumulative totals from March to last week's report on Monday, Oct. 5, the following PPE has arrived in B.C.:

- Almost 7 million N95 or equivalent respirators
- Almost 60 million surgical or procedure masks
- Just over 2.7 million pieces of eye protection, including goggles and face shields
- Just over 143 million pairs of gloves
- Just over 10 million gowns

Many of the items listed above, and other supplies and equipment that have recently arrived, are in the testing process to make sure the products meet or exceed safety requirements before being used in B.C.'s health-care system.

Over the last week (since the update last week on Oct. 5 until yesterday), the following PPE has arrived in B.C.:

- 177,858 N95 or equivalent respirators
- 3,918,400 surgical or procedure masks
- 13,930 pieces of eye protection
- 9,971,320 pairs of gloves
- 282,260 gowns

B.C. continues to source and test PPE. It is working to pursue any and all credible leads for safe and effective products for the health-care system.

Contact:

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