
JOINT STATEMENT

For Immediate Release
2020HLTH0317-001895
Oct. 26, 2020

Ministry of Health
Office of the Provincial Health Officer

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

Updated Oct. 29, for clarification

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 reporting on three 24-hour periods. From Oct. 23 to 24, we had 317 new cases. From Oct. 24 to 25, we had 293 new cases, and in the last 24 hours, we have had a further 207 new cases.

“This represents a total of 817 new cases, including 11 epi-linked cases, for a total of 13,371 cases in British Columbia.

“There are 2,325 active cases of COVID-19 in the province, 5,077 people who are under active public health monitoring as a result of identified exposure to known cases, and 10,734 people who tested positive have recovered.

“Currently, 77 individuals are hospitalized with COVID-19, 26 of whom are in intensive care. The remaining people with COVID-19 are recovering at home in self-isolation.

“Since the start of the pandemic, there have been 4,428 cases of COVID-19 in the Vancouver Coastal Health region, 7,529 in the Fraser Health region, 250 in the Island Health region, 693 in the Interior Health region, 383 in the Northern Health region and 88 cases of people who reside outside of Canada.

“There have been three new COVID-19 related deaths, for a total of 259 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 at Queen’s Park Care Centre, Amenida Seniors Community, Agassiz Seniors Community and Banfield Pavilion 4 West. The outbreaks at Chartwell Carrington House Retirement Residence, Thornebridge Gardens and Point Grey Hospital have been declared over. In total, 19 long-term care or assisted-living facilities and two acute-care facilities have active outbreaks.

“The outbreak at the FedEx Office at the Kelowna International Airport has been declared over. There also 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.

“Getting through our COVID-19 storm requires all of us to do our part – no exceptions and no

workarounds. Every time a friend, neighbour or family member tries to put aside the provincial orders and safety precautions, our risk goes up.

“We remind everyone of the order on social gatherings for no more than 50 people. The order requires that every location must have sufficient space to maintain safe physical distancing between everyone, which means the vast majority of homes cannot safely accommodate large numbers of people.

“Similar to what occurred in the summer with vacation homes and rentals, we have seen a notable increase in new cases and transmission of COVID-19 as a direct result of social gatherings in private homes.

“As a result, a new provincial health officer order will be put in place today limiting gatherings in private homes to no more than your immediate household, plus six others. This is a provincewide order that applies to all homes for all occasions.

“Enforcement will be stepped up to ensure people are following this new order, with the immediate focus on the Fraser Health region, where the increase in new cases is most notable.

“Just as religious leaders throughout the province have so strongly supported our provincial response, so we are calling on community leaders to do the same in order to help your communities do the right thing as we work to address this global pandemic.

“In addition to this new order and in light of the increased risks with respiratory season, the expectation is that people will wear masks in all indoor public spaces. As part of this, businesses are asked to review their COVID-19 safety plans with this in mind. If you are in a high-traffic area or among many people outside of your household while at work, a mask will help to protect you and those around you.

“Now is the time for all of us to work together – while staying apart – to slow the spread of COVID-19, and always keeping our groups small and using our layers of protection is the best way for us to do that.”

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, visit:

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:

- Haro Park Centre long-term care facility (second occurrence)
- Royal Arch Masonic Home long-term care facility (second occurrence)
- Three Links Care Centre long-term care facility
- Banfield Pavilion 4 West long-term care facility

Fraser Health:

- Agassiz Seniors Community long-term care facility
- Dr. Al Hogg Pavilion long-term care facility
- Amenida Seniors Community independent-living facility
- Baillie House long-term care facility
- Evergreen Baptist Care Society long-term care facility
- Fair Haven Homes Burnaby Lodge
- Fort Langley Seniors Community long-term care facility
- Good Samaritan Victoria Heights assisted-living facility
- Laurel Place long-term care facility
- Peace Portal Seniors Village long-term care facility
- Queen's Park Care Centre long-term care facility
- Rosemary Heights Seniors Village independent-, assisted- and long-term care facility
- Sunset Manor assisted-living facility
- The Village assisted-living and long-term care facility
- Zion Park Manor long-term care facility

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BACKGROUND 2

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PPE update – Monday, Oct. 26, 2020

To recap B.C.'s cumulative totals from March to last week's report on Monday, Oct. 19, the following personal protective equipment (PPE) has arrived in B.C.:

- Just over 7.2 million N95 or equivalent respirators
- Just over 65.5 million surgical or procedure masks
- Just over 2.7 million pieces of eye protection, including goggles and face shields
- Just over 163 million pairs of gloves
- Just over 10.7 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 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 until yesterday), the following PPE has arrived in B.C.:

- 86,431 N95 or equivalent respirators
- 9,441,206 surgical or procedure masks
- 10,404 pieces of eye protection
- 9,520,000 pairs of gloves
- 1,185,740 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.

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