

## COVID-19 UPDATE – May 7th, 2020

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

### Key Updates for May 7th, 2020

- For a full list of updates from VCH visit [vch.ca](http://vch.ca)
- Update on COVID-19 Cases
- B.C.'s Restart Plan
- Supporting public safety and confidence going forward

### Update on COVID-19 Cases

Dr. Bonnie Henry, provincial health officer, reported 23 new cases of COVID-19 in B.C. yesterday, bringing the total number of people who have tested positive to 2,255 since the pandemic began. The number of people in hospitals throughout B.C. sits at 74, including 19 people in critical care, and 1,494 people are considered fully recovered. There are 22 active outbreaks in long-term care, assisted living, and acute care. She also reported two more deaths in VCH related to COVID-19. As always, our hearts go out to those who have lost loved ones to COVID-19.

### B.C.'s Restart Plan

Also yesterday, Premier John Horgan announced B.C.'s Restart Plan, which outlines how British Columbians will move forward with safely restarting our province beginning in mid-May. Under the plan, government will work closely with public health officials, businesses and labour organizations to lift restrictions in phases, gradually allowing for more social and economic activity, while closely monitoring health information to minimize the risk to the public.

B.C. is currently in Phase 1 of the restart plan. Phase 2, which will begin in mid-May, includes:

- small social gatherings;
- a resumption of elective surgeries and regulated health services like physiotherapy, dentistry, chiropractors and in-person counselling;
- provincial parks open for day use;
- opening more non-essential businesses in keeping with safe operations plans;
- recalling the provincial legislature for regular sittings.

The target date for the start of Phase 3, which will include opening up of additional businesses and services, is between June and September 2020, if transmission rates remain low or in decline. Phase 4 will only be achieved when the threat of COVID-19 has been significantly diminished through widespread vaccination, broad successful treatments, evidence of community immunity, or the equivalent. B.C.'s Restart Plan can be found [here](#).

### Supporting public safety and confidence going forward

A strong emphasis on personal hygiene for all British Columbians, including hand washing, physical distancing and staying at home if you are sick, will be crucial for the success of every phase of the plan.

While B.C. already has sufficient testing and tracking capacity, by continuing to increase these, government will be able to identify any flare ups in COVID-19 case numbers and address them. This approach will support public safety and confidence.

### Key Messages to Share

- Practice [physical distancing](#) if you have to go out
- If you think you have COVID-19 take the self-assessment here: [covid19.thrive.health](https://covid19.thrive.health)
- Self-isolate at home for 10 days if you have COVID-19 symptoms
- Find helpful posters, handouts and other resources about COVID-19 [here](#).