

NEW PROVINCIAL UPDATES



- There are 310 active cases in BC currently.
- There are 2 new positive cases in Interior Health since yesterday.
- There is a change in the numbers between new cases and total cases in Interior Health and Island Health today due to a data consolidation to reflect COVID-19 cases based on where individuals reside, even if they were not in the health authority during their illness. 9 of the cases in Interior Health and one case in Island Health are individuals associated with the Kearl Lake outbreak, who completed their self-isolation in Alberta and have since recovered.
- The order restricting mass gatherings to no more than 50 individuals remains in place and has been expanded to include no more than 50 vehicles for outdoor drive-in events.
- BC Parks is gearing up for the next phase of its re-opening with overnight camping for BC residents starting June 1 and is expected to provide additional details next week.
- To support the Province's hospitality sector in reopening, food-primary, liquor-primary and manufacturer licensees, such as wineries, breweries and distilleries, can apply through a simplified online process to temporarily expand their service areas (for things like patios) until Oct. 31, 2020. The temporary authorizations are focused on expanding a licensed service area's footprint to support physical distancing requirements without increasing overall occupancy.

Links:

- **COVID-19 Update:** <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0027-000935>
- **Patio, Service Area Expansions Support Safe Reopening:** <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020AG0038-000922>

NEW FEDERAL UPDATES

- The Prime Minister today emphasized three keys to Canada's successful re-opening: scaling up testing capacity so we can quickly identify new cases and isolate them; accelerating our ability to do contact tracing; and, ensuring the data collected across jurisdictions is shared between provinces and territories.
- A new web-based benefits finder tool is now available to help Canadians determine which government benefits programs best meet their needs. The tool will be updated as new programs are announced and currently provides individuals with information on federal, provincial and territorial benefits programs available to them, including the just-launched Canada Emergency Student Benefit, Canada Emergency Response Benefit, Canada Child Benefit top-up, as well as measures such as mortgage and student loan deferrals. Visit canada.ca/coronavirusbenefits.
- The changes to the Canadian Emergency Business Account (CEBA) announced earlier this week allow an estimated additional 36,566 farms nation-wide to access the CEBA, for a total of over 67,000 eligible farms across Canada. This equates to up to \$2.68 billion in interest-free loans to Canadian farmers. Farmers unable to access CEBA, can turn towards the Regional Relief and Recovery Fund

Links:

- **New Benefits Finder Tool:** <https://covid-benefits.alpha.canada.ca/en/start>
- **Trudeau Speech on Contact Tracing:** <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/speeches/2020/05/22/prime-ministers-remarks-testing-contact-tracing-and-sharing-data-fight>
- **Funding for Farmers:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2020/05/update-on-financial-support-offered-to-farmers-from-ceba-changes.html>

Current Situation in BC

(as of 3:00pm PDT May 22, 2020)

Cases:

- Total confirmed cases in BC (since January): 2,507
- New cases since May 21: 18
- Hospitalized cases: 41
- Intensive Care: 8
- COVID-19 related deaths: 155
- Recovered: 2,042
- Long term care/assisted living homes affected: 14
- Acute-care unit outbreaks: 2

Confirmed cases by region:

- Vancouver Coastal Health: 888
- Fraser Health: 1,236
- Island Health: 127
- Interior Health: 194
- Northern Health: 62

News release:

- <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0027-000935>

NO BURNING

A reminder that outdoor burning is still banned across the East Kootenay, including: brush piles, grass fires, open fires, and the use of fireworks and burn barrels. **Campfires** (0.5m x 0.5m) **are allowed** at this time.

To learn more visit: www.bcwildfire.ca



RESOURCES

Link to BC Restart Plan:

- <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/bc-restart-plan>

Phone Numbers:

- **1-888-268-4319** - Non-health COVID-19 info
- **811** - dial 811 for COVID & non-COVID health info
- **211** - seniors looking for help (or volunteers willing to help) or visit: <http://www.bc211.ca/>
- **Crisis Line: 1.888.353.2273**
- **Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868**

Online Links:

- [COVID-19 Self Assessment Tool & App](#)
- [BC COVID-19 Dashboard](#)
- [BC Centre for Disease Control](#)
- [Interior Health](#)
- [Government of Canada](#)
- [Province of BC Information Hub](#)

All municipalities within the region have activated Emergency Operations Centres through the Regional Emergency Operations Centre. The regional district, municipalities and First Nations communities are working in this integrated model to coordinate and communicate throughout this pandemic response.