

## FW: FOR APPROVAL: CBC News statement request

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From: Yeung, Lucinda HLTH:EX <Lucinda.Yeung@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: September 1, 2020 11:35:52 AM PDT  
Hi Minister,

Please see below for request for Ministry statement from CBC national – about public trust in public health messaging (in backdrop of increase in case #s and school ad)

The below is what GCPE proposed.

Lucinda

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**From:** Greer, Shannon GCPE:EX <Shannon.Greer@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** September 1, 2020 11:28 AM  
**To:** Yeung, Lucinda HLTH:EX <Lucinda.Yeung@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** MacDonald, Alex LBR:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** FOR APPROVAL: CBC News statement request - back to school messaging & public trust

Hi,

Here is our proposed response for the below media request from CBC.

*The following can be attributed to the B.C. Ministry of Health:*

As we move into the fall and schools go back, it's important to remember that what happens in schools reflects what is happening in the community. We have very low levels of spread or no spread, in most communities in B.C., and even in those communities where we have some community connections and spread, it is still at a very low level and we expect to see that in our schools.

We know this is challenging time for parents, students and all British Columbians. Public health has a long history of working collaboratively to promote and protect the health of our school communities. Like every year, Public Health will support teachers and education staff to make the return to school successful.

Each school will operate under strict health and safety measures with well-stocked supplies to support regular hand washing and hand hygiene and frequent cleaning of classrooms and high touch surfaces, along with daily monitoring of personal health before the school day begins and providing non-medical masks for students and staff.

The purpose of the ad with Dr. Henry is to give parents and students information about the return to school by directing them to a website ([backtoschool.gov.bc.ca](http://backtoschool.gov.bc.ca)) with resources and more information.

COVID-19 will be around for months to come – and the ad also shows that public health officials will be here through it all.

Schools are part of our communities – and a safe community means a safe school. That is why public health will continue to promptly and appropriately respond to cases, clusters and outbreaks of COVID-19 to ensure our communities, and the schools in them, remain at low risk for COVID-19 transmission.

### Reporter

Georgina Smyth, Producer  
CBC - National

[georgina.smyth@cbc.ca](mailto:georgina.smyth@cbc.ca)

604-662-6804 c: 778-697-9445

**Deadline** Tuesday, September 1, 2020 3:00 PM

### Request

I understand there's no on camera COVID update today so I wanted to request a statement response to a story we're filing today on the public's faith in the health message as people become increasingly uneasy about sending children back to school as case numbers climb.

- What is the ministry's response to a perceived disparity between messaging to go back to the school and the increasing number of cases in the province?
- Is the ministry regretful of an ad in which Dr Henry appeared in, which has since been criticised for misrepresenting what classrooms will look like this fall?
- How does the ministry feel about possibly losing the faith of the public as we enter a possibly critical stage of the pandemic?

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From: Yeung, Lucinda HLTH:EX <Lucinda.Yeung@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: September 1, 2020 2:19:14 PM PDT  
Hi Minister,

Please see updated statement below.

Bonnie's feedback to the latest version:

The website may have resources but this suggests the ad directs people to those resources. If the ad doesn't then we should remove that or change it to say additional resources are available for parents at XX site. Or something like that.

I also suggest not repeating the Ministry of Ed ad in the second sentence.

Your thoughts?

Lucinda

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**From:** Greer, Shannon GCPE:EX <Shannon.Greer@gov.bc.ca>

**Sent:** September 1, 2020 2:11 PM

**To:** Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>; 'Nicola Lambrechts' <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>

**Cc:** MacDonald, Alex LBR:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>; Yeung, Lucinda HLTH:EX <Lucinda.Yeung@gov.bc.ca>

**Subject:** RE: FOR APPROVAL: CBC News statement request - back to school messaging & public trust

Hi,

Thank you so much for your feedback! I just had a conversation with Lucinda and have made additions in purple below.

Lucinda – please let me know if this addresses your feedback and will work for the Minister.

Dr. Henry – I think the website does have resources (such as how to find an alternative learning program, back to school examples) and more information on masks in schools, taking the bus, orientation week...etc. This can be removed though, please let me know.

*The following can be attributed to the B.C. Ministry of Health:*

As we move into the fall and schools go back, it's important to remember that what happens in schools reflects what is happening in the community. We have very low levels of spread or no spread, in most communities in B.C., and even in those communities where we have some community connections and spread, it is still at a very low level and we can expect to see that in our schools as both children and adults return to the school setting.

We know this is challenging time for parents, students and all British Columbians. Public health has a long history of working collaboratively to promote and protect the health of our school communities. Like every year, Public Health will support teachers and education staff and the school community to make the return to school successful.

Each school will operate under strict health and safety measures with well-stocked supplies to support regular hand washing and hand hygiene and frequent cleaning of classrooms and high touch surfaces, along with daily monitoring of personal health before the school day begins and providing non-medical masks for students and staff.

The purpose of the Ministry of Education ad with Dr. Henry is to give parents and students information about the return to school and some of the changes they can expect. It also directs them to a website ([backtoschool.gov.bc.ca](http://backtoschool.gov.bc.ca)) with resources and more information<sup>s.13</sup> Participating in the Ministry of Education ad, was an important opportunity for the Provincial Health Officer to answer some of the many questions she received from children and their parents.

COVID-19 will be around for months to come – and the ad also shows that public health officials will be here through it all.

Schools are part of our communities – and a safe community means a safe school. That is why public health will continue to promptly and appropriately respond to cases, clusters and outbreaks of COVID-19 to ensure our communities, and the schools in them, remain at low risk for COVID-19 transmission.

**Reporter**

Georgina Smyth, Producer

CBC - National

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**Request**

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- How does the ministry feel about possibly losing the faith of the public as we enter a possibly critical stage of the pandemic?



## FW: EDUC Materials

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**From:** MacDonald, Alex LBR:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>  
**To:** Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>, Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>, Yeung, Lucinda HLTH:EX <Lucinda.Yeung@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** September 3, 2020 10:53:26 AM PDT  
**Attachments:** SN - Federal Funding-Draft 5 Sep 3 8-47am.docx, KM-QA - MRF - Federal Funding scrum - VH.docx, 2020EDUC0062-001652.pdf

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**From:** Harrison, Veronica EDUC:EX <Veronica.Harrison@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** September 3, 2020 10:41 AM  
**To:** Craik, Jason GCPE:EX <Jason.Craik@gov.bc.ca>; Aaron, Sage PREM:EX <Sage.Aaron@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX <Tim.Howlett@gov.bc.ca>; MacDonald, Alex LBR:EX <Alex.MacDonald@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** EDUC Materials

Hi folks,

Attached is the final NR, speaking notes, and MRFs QA for today.

Let me know if there are any questions.

Best,

Veronica

Speaking Notes  
for the

Hon. Rob Fleming  
Minister of Education

Federal funding for B.C.'s K-12 COVID Response  
Press Theatre

September 3, 2020

1:00 p.m.

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

- Good afternoon... I am grateful to speak to you today from the territory of the Lekwungen-speaking people of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations.
- As many of you are aware, the Federal Government has announced it will provide \$242.36 in funding support school restart plans in our province.
- And today I'd like to give you more details about what this means for B.C.'s K-12 schools.

## PROVINCIAL RESPONSE

- But before I begin... I'd like to recognize the hard work being done throughout our province to ensure kids have a safe, ready and welcome return to school next week.
- Schools are going to look different this year... schedules are going to be different... classrooms are going to be different.

- And all of this has required a tremendous amount of work behind the scenes.
- Thank you to the teachers and education assistants who have been in schools getting their classes and lesson plans ready... who have been consulting with their school's health and safety officers... so the kids in their classes are supported.
- Principals, Vice-Principals and school administration... have been communicating with families to make sure they know about their new schedules... understand learning groups... and what to expect in the classroom.
- A big thank you to school support staff... who are doing everything needed to keep schools clean and safe for students and staff...
- Not to mention school district administration staff who have worked tirelessly all summer to develop safe return plans... who have been connecting with parents throughout the province to find out their needs... and how best to ensure students get back to learning.

## PROVINCIAL FUNDING

- All of this work is being done because our province is taking the best... science-based public health advice as we plan to welcome students back to school.
- To support schools during this pandemic... we have provided a new, one-time Provincial investment of \$45.6 million in COVID-specific funding to ensure our schools are safe for students and staff.
- This Provincial funding is in addition to the record levels of funding school districts are already receiving...with \$546 million of new money in B.C.'s Budget 2020 for K-12 education.
- This investment has meant that school districts like Nanaimo-Ladysmith (SD68) are able to ensure that every classroom has a sink or wall mounted hand sanitizer station.
- They have also purchased an electrostatic sprayer to clean and sanitize surfaces for every school... and they have increased their custodial staff by 25%.
- In Central Okanagan (SD 23)... they have also invested in 53 electrostatic sprayers... one for each school... they've purchased 40 hand-held units for cleaning buses... and they are supplying

hand sanitizer to over 1000 classrooms throughout the district.

- This is in addition to purchasing 40 handwashing stations for portable classrooms.
- In Richmond (SD38)... they have purchased 1,200 hand sanitizing stations and 55 portable handwashing stations to install in classrooms without sinks...
- Richmond is also adding 25 full-time custodians... and more casual custodians are being recruited as we speak.
- This is incredible work being done to keep schools safe and I'm only touching on some of the highlights.
- Once again... I want to extend a thank you to school district staff and school leaders for working on these improvements.

## FEDERAL RESPONSE

- To build on this work... we have also been talking with the federal government about the need for more resources for our schools.

- And we appreciate the Federal Government's response for B.C.
- Our province's schools will receive up to \$242.36 million in one-time, COVID-related federal funding for the 2020/2021 school year.
- B.C. will receive the first half of the payment in September... and funding will be allocated to public school districts based on enrolment.
- We are initially allocating \$101.1 million to public school districts... \$7.96 million to independent schools... and we are reserving \$12.1 million for emerging COVID-related issues between September and December 2020.
- This reserve amount will be allocated for the sector before the end of December.
- We will then receive up to an additional \$121.18 million in January, which will be allocated out at that time.

## DISTRICT

- B.C. is a diverse province and there isn't a one-size-fits all approach to how districts and independent schools will implement their K-12

restart plans.

- It's going to look different depending on the needs of each community.
- As we've seen from school districts' restart plans... we know it is local solutions that work best for individual students.
- With the support of the Ministry, many districts have already developed, or are developing, additional remote options as reported in their K-12 restart plans.
- For instance... school districts like Vernon (SD22) and Bulkley Valley (SD 54) and Cariboo-Chilcotin (SD27) have developed remote learning options for First Nations students who want it...
- School districts like Sea to Sky (SD48) are expanding their existing Distributed Learning programs so they can accommodate more students...
- Coast Mountain (SD 82) Stikine (SD 87) and North Vancouver (SD44) are offering remote learning programs for immunocompromised students.



- While Surrey (SD36), Burnaby (SD41) and Vancouver (SD39) are creating a blend of both remote and in-class options for secondary schools.
- This new Federal funding will support school districts to implement these programs.

... to hire more teachers and support staff to support students whether they are learning remotely or in the classroom...

...to purchase more software licenses and electronic course materials or text books...

... to help supply computers or tablets for the families who need them...

... and to create additional wi-fi hubs in remote and Indigenous communities... or provide internet access for families.

- This funding will also allow schools to expand their health and safety measures... improve ventilation in buildings... purchase more PPE... install plexiglass barriers and hire even more custodial and support staff.
- Every dollar of the federal funding announced today will benefit students in B.C.

## MAJORITY RETURNING TO CLASS

- I can tell you that districts have already reached out to families in their communities... to find out if their child will attend school classes starting September 10<sup>th</sup>...or if they need an alternative learning option.
- We've heard some positive results from these surveys, emails and phone calls.
- For instance, in Langley (SD35), New Westminster (SD40), Cowichan Valley (SD79) and Southeast Kootenay (SD5)... they are reporting that almost 90% of those who have responded so far have indicated their kids will be back to school for in-class learning.
- And we're hearing this echoed from other districts... where they're seeing the majority of kids returning to the classroom.
- A reminder that... if families haven't heard from their school by now... I encourage them to reach out to their school.

## CONCLUSION

- As the first week of school approaches... we want staff, students and their families to feel confident knowing we're doing everything possible to ensure schools are as safe as they can possibly be... just as we have from the beginning.
- I'm incredibly grateful for the exceptional team of dedicated education professionals supporting B.C. students during these challenging times...

...and, once again, I'd like to thank everyone for your continued flexibility and patience as we get ready to safely accommodate most students back into the classroom full-time.

- I am now happy to take your questions.

## **Key Messages**

- **We want to see as many students as possible return to school next week benefitting from a face-to-face connection with their teachers.**
- **We have been talking with the federal government about the need for more resources for schools, so we're appreciative of the additional support.**
- **This funding builds on the work we've already done to support a safe restart for B.C. schools, with \$45.6 million new COVID-19 specific funding already invested to ensure students and staff are safe.**
- **This is on top of the \$546 million in new K-12 funding in B.C.'s budget for this year.**
- **B.C. has strict health and safety measures in place, with new funding for 1.5 million non-medical masks, additional handwashing stations, physical barriers and cleaning supplies, as well as hiring more custodians, loaning technology and supporting students with complex needs.**
- **This funding is allowing schools to expand health and safety measures, purchase more PPE and increase capacity for remote learning.**
- **I understand the anxiety many families are feeling about their children returning to the classroom and for some, in-class learning may not be an option.**
- **Many districts are developing additional remote options and this funding will now allow school districts to implement these programs.**

- **This new funding will support remote learning by helping districts hire and train more teachers, purchase software, course materials and technology, and support internet access for families.**
- **By working collaboratively with leaders in our province's education system we are making sure students and staff are safe, ready and welcome when they return to school in September.**

## **Questions and Answers**

### **Federal Funding**

**Q1: Students are back in class next Thursday. Can any of the federal money be spent in time to ensure a safe return to school?**

- This funding builds on the work we've already done to support a safe restart for B.C. schools, with \$45.6 million in new COVID-19 specific funding already invested to ensure students and staff are safe.
- With this funding in place, districts will be investing it in a way that best benefits students in their communities.
- This can include hiring additional staff, mental health support, increased hygiene amenities, expansion of remote learning programs, and transportation.
- For example, the Richmond School District has hired 25 additional custodians and purchased, 1,200 hand sanitizing stations, while the Central Okanagan School District has invested in over 53 electrostatic sprayers – one for every school.
- I'm confident district and school staff will be working diligently and efficiently to direct these resources where they're needed most and prepare the system to manage through this pandemic for the entire school year.

**Q2: Are you expecting all districts and schools to use this funding to expand their remote learning programs?**

- Under my direction, school districts have surveyed their parents to understand if they require a remote learning option.
- My expectation is that schools will use the funding in a way that best meets the needs of local students.
- Many school districts are developing remote options and this funding allows them to implement these programs.
- This could mean hiring and training more teachers and support staff for remote learning, purchasing software, course materials and technology, and

## QA and Key Messages

### MRF Back to School Federal Funding Update



supporting better access to internet for families.

**Q3: Will you direct every dollar of the federal funding to school districts?**

- Every dollar of the federal funding will benefit students throughout the province.
- With this funding now in place, districts can expand on investments already made through our \$45.6 million of funding for enhanced cleaning protocols, purchases of PPE and increased capacity for remote learning.
- Funding from both levels of government allows us to provide more resources to districts so they can invest even further in these areas, to continue providing ongoing learning opportunities in a safe way.
- We will then receive up to an additional \$121.18 million in January, which will be allocated out at that time.

**Q4: Can school districts spend this money on ventilation?**

- The Ministry has provided school districts with new technical guidelines and checklists developed by industry experts to help adhere to these guidelines.
- All school districts have confirmed that they have assessed their ventilation systems and made improvements in line with recent federal guidelines.
- With additional funding from the government now in hand, school districts can choose to make HVAC and ventilation improvements if they decide that will further benefit the health and safety of students and staff.

**Q5: Are you just downloading more work onto school districts and independent schools? What do you say to the criticism that you continue to move the goal posts for school districts' return to school plans, and that it's all coming too late?**

- There is no change to B.C.'s return to school plan.
- On the advice of the Provincial health officer and the BCCDC, we have robust health and safety guidelines designed to provide students and staff with a safe learning environment next week.
- Local boards of education are our partners in education and know their communities best.
- While some districts may decide that more resources need to be put into cleaning supplies, others may choose to invest in additional staff.
- Rather than prescribing exactly how new money should be spent, we are giving districts the opportunity to direct these funds in a way that works best for students in their own communities.
- These funds are welcome by school districts and independent schools to assist in managing through this pandemic over the school year and make additional investments to support student learning and health and safety protocols.

## **Teacher Concerns**

**Q6: How will this funding address teachers' demands for smaller classes to allow for physical distancing and density in schools?**

- B.C has made record investments in education that has resulted in average class sizes that are the smallest in a generation – with more educators and other supports in the classroom.
- School districts can invest this new funding in learning space improvements like plexiglass or other barriers.
- Students should be spread out as much as possible, and students are being placed in learning groups to minimize contact.
- Masks, as well as physical distancing, will be required at all times for staff and older students when they are outside of their learning groups.
- Classrooms are going to look different. For middle and secondary schools, desks and tables may be arranged so students are not facing each other.
- As Dr. Henry and her team have advised, bell schedules and time-tables may also need to be adjusted depending on school populations and configurations.
- Class size averages in B.C.:
  - 18 students for kindergarten (cap is 20)
  - 19.5 students for grades 1 to 3 (cap is 22)
  - 23.3 students for grades 4 to 7 (cap varies)
  - 22.4 students for grades 8 to 12 (cap varies)

**Q7: Will students who opt into remote learning remain connected to their school and will space be available to them if they return in person?**

- Under my direction, districts are developing and implementing remote learning opportunities to ensure students who need time to transition back to school are supported, and can remain connected to their schools.
- While catchment decisions are up to districts, I expect all school districts to be flexible and find solutions that support students in their communities.

**Q8: Are you concerned about teachers taking job action due to what they say is an unsafe work environment?**

- We appreciate all the hard work teachers are doing to get ready to teach in schools that will look different next week.
- All schools are following WorkSafe BC guidelines as part of their health and safety plans for students and staff.
- I understand Teri Mooring has said that job action is not being considered at this time.

## QA and Key Messages

### MRF Back to School Federal Funding Update



- We will continue to work collaboratively with leaders in our province's education system to ensure students and staff are safe, ready and welcome when they return to school in September.

#### **Tweet from Teri Mooring:**

**"I'm not so sure about this. What I did say, is that we are continuing to work with government using a solutions-based approach, as we have all along, to make the changes we see as necessary. And that there is still time and now money (\$242M), to do so."**

#### **Q9: Will districts be hiring more counsellors to support students?**

- Now, more than ever, we need to prioritize the health and wellbeing of our kids.
- We know there will be a lot of young people who have experienced stress and anxiety in their lives as a result of this pandemic.
- School counsellors are a vital resource to support students' mental health.
- One of the areas that districts can spend this new money on is mental health supports for students and staff.
- We have also developed resources for the education sector to use, including a teacher planning guide that contains a range of mental health resources to support kids.
- And we have hosted some training with a lens on trauma informed systems for returning more students into schools.
- Additionally, just yesterday Minister Darcy announced a \$2-million boost to school-based wellness supports for students, families and educators as they work together to get through this challenging time.

## Remote Learning

#### **Q10: Are all students eligible for remote learning through their local school?**

- Our hope is that parents and families will feel assured that schools are safe and ready to welcome them back next week.
- For some families with medical and health concerns, that isn't an option.
- To better support families who need additional, transitional time to return to in-class instruction, the Ministry has given school districts the flexibility to work with families to provide remote learning options that keep children connected to their regular school communities.
- School districts have contacted parents to determine their needs, and have begun working with them on solutions.
- This support will ensure students maintain their learning while absent from school and will give some parents time to gradually return their children to the



## QA and Key Messages

### MRF Back to School Federal Funding Update



classroom.

**Q11: What can parents expect these remote learning options to look like? Will it be the same as it did in June?**

- There isn't a one size fits all approach that will be provided across the province. It will be different in every community.
- All districts have released their back to school plans and have been contacting parents to discuss options moving forward.
- Districts are engaging with parents to determine their needs.
- With the support of the Ministry, many districts have developed, or are developing, additional remote options.
- This new federal funding will support school districts to hire more teachers and support staff, and implement these programs

**Q12: How are teachers supposed to teach remotely and in-person at the same time? Will you hire more teachers?**

- Teachers have asked us for remote learning options to support a more gradual return to school.
- School districts will be working with their local unions to ensure teachers have the resources they need to deliver remote education to students without being overworked.
- We expect districts will choose to use federal funding to hire more staff.

**Q13: Do districts have time to design remote learning options?**

- Some districts have already developed or expanded remote learning programs and we have given school districts the flexibility and certainty to find options that work for families.
- This includes the authority for all school boards to expand remote learning programs to additional grades, as well as the tools they need to increase their existing programs to meet demand.
- For instance, school districts like Vernon, Bulkley Valley and Cariboo-Chilcotin have developed remote learning options for First Nations students.
- School districts like Sea to Sky are expanding their existing Distributed Learning programs so they can accommodate more student.
- Coast Mountain, Stikine and Prince Rupert (SD52) are offering remote learning programs for immunocompromised students.
- While Surrey, Vancouver and Victoria are creating a blend of options for secondary schools with large student populations so they can study both in the classroom and remote.
- This new federal funding will support school districts to implement these programs to hire more staff, purchase more software and course material,

## QA and Key Messages

### MRF Back to School Federal Funding Update



help supply technology, and support internet use in remote communities and for low-income families.

#### **Q14: Will students who learn from home lose their spot in their schools or programs?**

- Our expectation is that school districts will be flexible with families who don't feel comfortable sending their children to school at this time.
- Some districts have developed transition plans that give time to students to transition to in-class instruction.

## Masks

#### **Q15: A principal at Heritage Woods Secondary School in Port Moody introduced stricter mask policies for students but has retracted it because he couldn't override the PHO policy. Why can't districts set their own rules around masks?**

- The choice to wear masks in school outside of these requirements is a personal one.
- Masks will be required at all times for staff and students in middle and secondary schools when they are outside of their learning groups, in common areas like hallways and in confined spaces such as buses.
- We respect everyone's choice to wear a mask.

## Comox Board Chair

#### **Q16: Why did the Comox Valley school board chair resign?**

- I have reached out to the former chair to understand his reasons for resignation, and they are personal to him.
- I have full confidence in the board to continue making decisions that support local families.
- Ministry staff are in contact with staff at the district to offer support wherever it's needed.
- Right now we are all focused on the safe restart of school.

## Dr. Henry Advertisement

#### **Q17: What is your response to the criticism from the BCTF about the recent ad with Dr. Henry?**

- The purpose of the public service ad with Dr. Henry is to give parents and students more information about the return to school by directing them to a website ([backtoschool.gov.bc.ca](https://backtoschool.gov.bc.ca)) with resources and more information.

## QA and Key Messages

### MRF Back to School Federal Funding Update



- Students will be expected to wash their hands, stay home if they are sick, and spend most of their time with the same group of kids and teachers.

#### **Q18: Why did Dr. Henry agree to be in the ad?**

- Dr. Henry took an opportunity to meet with kids and answer some of the many questions she was getting from students.
- For Dr. Henry, it was important to address some of the things that will be new and different and explain, from a public health perspective, what the return to school would look like in September.
- In conversation with students, Dr. Henry tells the students to expect lots of handwashing, spending most of their time with the same group of friends and teachers, to wear masks sometimes, and to stay home if they are sick.
- Importantly, she reminds everyone to be kind, be calm, and be safe.

#### **Q19: How much are you spending on your ad campaign – isn't that money that could be re-directed into classrooms?**

- We needed parents, students and staff to be informed of the health and safety measures for this exceptional school year, so they can make an informed decision about returning to school.
- So, we launched a provincewide information campaign to give parents assurance that sending their kids back to school is safe.
- The total cost for the Return to School info campaign is \$1.24 million.
- The campaign will also use free, social media channels and the government website to amplify the message.

## Return to School

#### **Q20: What do you have to say to the parents who are afraid to send their kids back to school? And the teachers worried about returning to work?**

- I understand parents and teachers are concerned about the return to school next week.
- I have two young children returning to public school myself.
- I've had a chance to look at my children's school district plans and while back to school will look very different this year, I'm confident that their district has come up with a plan to welcome students back safely on September 10th.
- And I've been speaking to parents who have now had a chance to look at their individual districts plans and heard from their local school and many are feeling more comfortable about the measures in place to keep our children safe.

#### **Q21: Will schools be shut down if there is a COVID case?**

## QA and Key Messages

### MRF Back to School Federal Funding Update



- If public health confirms a case of COVID-19 in a school, the school and district will be notified, and contact tracing will begin.
- If a child has been exposed to a confirmed case, parents or guardians will be notified and that child will be required to isolate at home for 14 days.
- Public health officials will work closely with the school to determine if further actions should be taken, and the school will support student learning while they are in self-isolation.

#### **Q22: How are you sending students back to school when there is a lawsuit arguing schools are unsafe?**

- We have been served and we will not be commenting on any matters that are before the courts.
- We continue to be guided by the health and safety advice of Dr. Bonnie Henry and her public health team.

#### **Q23: Will parents have alternate options to learn from home while in French Immersion?**

- We have heard from some parents with questions about distance education options for French immersion students.
- Ministry staff are actively reaching out to school districts to gain an understanding of what's being planned for French immersion programs and we'll use this information to see how we can support this program of choice.

#### **Q24: How will TTOCs work this year? Will they be expected to teach at multiple schools, or will there be single-site protocols like in long-term care?**

- In most cases, TTOCs will not be assigned to a designated learning group, so they will need to maintain physical distance from students and other staff, and be required to wear a mask if they cannot maintain physical distance.
- However, if a TTOC is assigned to a school for an extended period of time they could become a part of a learning group and won't need to physically distance.
- The Steering Committee and Health & Safety Working Group developed specific guidelines for itinerant teachers and TTOCs to support districts with this issue.
- Each district also confirmed that they will have training and orientation in place for all TTOCs so that they are aware of health and safety guidelines.
- Some school districts have already created innovative solutions to ensure TTOCs have the option to interact with fewer groups of people. For instance, the Vancouver School District is offering TTOCs the option to choose a school quadrant, so they will only be on call for a select group of schools.

## QA and Key Messages

### MRF Back to School Federal Funding Update



#### **Q25: How are before and after school care providers expected to adhere to learning groups?**

- We understand parents' concerns about the number of people their children come into contact with at school.
- Licensed child care providers have not been required to reduce capacity or shut down at any time during the pandemic.
- We have asked school districts to work with their on-site child care providers to support keeping kids in learning groups, where possible, as they develop their specific operating guidelines.
- School districts can use the federal funding to hire additional staff to support before- and after-school care, open up more space and cover the cleaning costs for before and after school care so groups can be smaller, and ensure students can remain in their learning groups.

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## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
2020EDUC0062-001652  
Sept. 3, 2020

Ministry of Education

### **New federal funding builds on plans for a safe back to school**

VICTORIA – Building on the Province’s \$45.6-million investment to support a safe restart for B.C.’s schools, additional funding from the federal government will allow schools to expand health and safety measures, purchase more personal protective equipment (PPE) and increase capacity for remote learning.

“Our province is taking the best, science-based public health advice and planning to have as many children as possible back in classrooms this fall, which is why we have been talking with the federal government about the need for more resources for our schools,” said Rob Fleming, Minister of Education. “We are appreciative of this additional support to provide more resources to districts and independent school authorities, so they can continue providing ongoing learning opportunities in a safe way.”

To support B.C.’s COVID-19 response for K-12 education, the federal government is providing \$242.4 million in one-time funding for the 2020-21 school year, with the first half of the payment expected to be received in September. Funding will be allocated to public school districts based primarily on student enrolment. B.C.’s Ministry of Education is initially allocating \$101.1 million to school districts, \$8.0 million to independent schools and reserving \$12.1 million for emerging COVID-19 related issues between September and December 2020. The ministry is expected to receive up to an additional \$121.2 million in January, which will be allocated out at that time.

On Aug. 26, Fleming directed school districts and independent schools to contact all families in their school communities to confirm if they planned for their child to attend school classes in September or if they would need remote learning options. Over the past week, schools have reported that the majority of students are returning to full-time, in-class instruction. However, some families are looking for remote options or transition programs.

The funding will support school districts to hire and train more teachers and support staff for remote learning; purchase additional software licences, electronic course materials and textbooks; purchase computers or tablets; and create Wi-Fi hubs and internet access in remote and Indigenous communities.

School districts and independent schools will be able to spend the funding in the following areas, based on local needs:

#### **Learning resources and supports**

- Implementation of online and remote learning options
- Hiring additional teachers and staff
- Training for staff

- On-call teachers costs and other on-call staff
- Mental health support for students and staff

### **Health and safety**

- Increasing staff and covering salary costs for additional hours needed to meet health and safety guidelines in schools
- Improving air systems in schools, such as heating, ventilation and air conditioning improvements, portable air scrubbers and increased utility costs
- Increasing hand hygiene, including additional handwashing and hand sanitizing stations, installing touchless faucets or additional supplies
- Installing plexiglass and other barriers, providing outdoor learning spaces, and adapting classrooms and school buses to minimize physical contact
- Purchasing additional cleaning supplies such as sprayers or fogger machines for frequent cleaning and disinfecting high-touch surfaces
- Purchasing additional masks, face shields or other PPE as needed

### **Transportation**

- Cover additional transportation costs to have fewer students on buses and/or to accommodate new school schedules and additional routes
- Supporting alternative transportation strategies, such as assisting with gas costs for parents who transport their children to school

### **Before- and after-school child care**

- Opening up more space and covering the cleaning costs for before- and after-school care so that groups can be smaller and to ensure students can remain within their learning groups
- Additional staff to support before- and after-school care during the pandemic

These one-time provincial and federal COVID-19 funding investments build on the record levels of funding schools are already receiving, with \$546 million of new money in B.C.'s Budget 2020 for K-12 education.

### **Quick Facts:**

- The federal government has committed to provide provinces and territories \$2 billion in new federal funding to support the adaptation of the education sector to ensure a safe return to class in the fall.
- B.C.'s Ministry of Education has developed a five-stage approach to operate schools, depending on risk of transmission and guidance from the provincial health officer. This helps school districts know what to expect if there is a significant change to school operations required as part of B.C.'s response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Learn More:**

For more info on back-to-school plans, learning groups and health and safety guidelines, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/covid-19-return-to-school>

**Contact:**

Ministry of Education  
Government Communications and Public  
Engagement  
250 356-5963

---

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: [news.gov.bc.ca/connect](https://news.gov.bc.ca/connect)



## BCCDC Website Updates/Changes Daily Summary - 11 Sept 2020

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From: Amos, Heather [BCCDC] <heather.amos@bccdc.ca>  
To: Undisclosed recipients:  
Sent: September 11, 2020 5:55:02 PM PDT

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

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## BCCDC Website Updates/Changes Daily Summary

### Changes/Updates to Current Information

#### **Updated K-12 School guidance**

The [public health guidance for K-12 schools](#) was updated and posted to the [Schools](#) page.

#### **MIS-C Guidance for Clinicians**

The *Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) Temporally Associated with COVID-19: Guidance for Clinicians in B.C.* PDF has been updated with the latest case definition and posted to the [Pediatrics](#) and [Clinical Care](#) pages of the health professionals site.

#### **Pets and COVID 19**

On the [Pets](#) page, the Q and As for pet owners have been updated as well as a revised information sheet for veterinarians [COVID-19 and Animals](#) dated September 9th, 2020 has been posted.

#### **Community Gardens**

Updates have been made on [Community Gardens](#) page for coordinators and community users.

#### **Wildfires**

Updates have been made to [Wildfires](#) page.

#### **Faith Based Organizations**

The PDF guidance document for Faith Based Organizations was added as webpage content to [Faith Based Organizations](#) page.

#### **Deceased Persons**

The PDF guidance document for the handling of deceased persons was added as webpage content to [Deceased Persons](#) page.

#### **Hotels and Tourism**

The PDF guidance document hotels was added as webpage content to [Hotels and Tourism](#) page.

#### **COVID-19 Exposures**

The following flights were posted to the COVID-19 [Public Exposures](#) page:

Flights posted with COVID-19 exposures: <http://ow.ly/Qfb650BnEI2>

- Aug 30, Air India 1143, Delhi to Vancouver
- Sep 1: Lufthansa 761, Frankfurt to Vancouver
- Sep 3: United Airlines 5351, San Francisco to Vancouver
- Sep 6: Air India 1143, Delhi to Vancouver
- Sep 7: WestJet 112, Vancouver to Calgary

## FW: Today's Statement - Sept 16

---

From: van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: September 16, 2020 2:31:09 PM PDT  
Attachments: ST\_Covid\_Sept 16 (2pm) (jmp).docx  
Bonnie's changes highlighted. Approved?

### **Joint statement on Province of British Columbia COVID-19 response and latest updates**

Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, and Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.'s provincial health officer, have issued the following joint statement regarding updates on the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) response in British Columbia:

"Today, we announcing 122 new cases, including five epi-linked case, for a total of 7,498 cases in British Columbia.

"There are 1,614 active cases of COVID-19 in the province, 2,966 people who are under active public health monitoring as a result of identified exposure to known cases, and 5,646 people who tested positive have recovered.

"Currently, 60 individuals are hospitalized with COVID-19, 23 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 2,660 cases of COVID-19 in the Vancouver Coastal Health region, 3,825 in the Fraser Health region, 195 in the Island Health region, 485 in the Interior Health region, 237 in the Northern Health region and 85 cases of people who reside outside of Canada.

"There have been no new COVID-19 related deaths, for a total of 219 deaths in British Columbia. We offer our condolences to everyone who has lost their loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"There have been no new health-care facility outbreaks. In total, 11 long-term care or assisted-living facilities and three acute-care facilities have active outbreaks.

"There have been no new community outbreaks, although there continue to be community exposure events.

"Alerts are posted on the BC Centre for Disease Control's (BCCDC) website, as well as on health authorities' websites, providing details on where the potential exposure occurred and what actions to take - whether you need to self-isolate or monitor for symptoms.

"Beginning today the BCCDC website will also link to regional health authority's school notification pages, providing the date and type of notification (outbreak, cluster or exposure) for impacted schools. Fraser Health's school notification page is available now and the other regional health authorities will have theirs ready soon.

"As we learn more and better understand where the risks exist, we will continue to adjust our B.C. COVID-19 approach and response to protect those who are most vulnerable. This is our priority for not only COVID-19, but the second equally concerning pandemic of overdose deaths.

"Today, a new Provincial Health Officer order has been put in place to increase the number of health professionals authorized to provide safer alternatives to the toxic drug supply.

"This new order is about connecting more people to treatment and doing all we can to save lives by supporting people who use drugs to do so safely.

“One of the biggest concerns with COVID-19 is the unidentified spread of the virus in our communities. This is why getting tested as soon as you have symptoms is so important.

“With the knowledge of new cases or clusters, public health teams can quickly complete contact tracing, notify those who may be exposed and more importantly, contain the further spread.

“It doesn’t help to shame and blame those in our communities who have the virus, because it quite often discourages others from coming forward and getting tested and in turn, puts all of us at risk.

“Rather we need to show compassion and care, not judgement when there is a new case in our community.

“Large gatherings have been a steady source of transmission, however, many of the new cases we are seeing in the past weeks are from small gatherings where people see different groups of friends on different days – inadvertently spreading the virus to many people.

“Let’s not forget that if we are close enough, doing enough and with enough different people, the likelihood of transmitting the virus significantly goes up. That is why is so important to make our social interactions a ‘small and safe six’; keeping to our immediate households and the same close friends only.

“This September is our month to get ready for the respiratory season, to hold steady with our layers of protection, and go forward with the routines that will keep our communities and our loved ones safe.”

### **Quick Facts:**

Assisted living, long-term care homes and seniors' rental buildings with ongoing COVID-19 outbreaks are as follows:

#### **Vancouver Coastal Health**

- OPAL by Element assisted living facility
- Point Grey Private Hospital long-term care facility
- Royal Arch Masonic Home long-term care facility (second outbreak)

#### **Fraser Health**

- Bear Creek Villa independent living facility
- Cherington Place long-term care facility
- Evergreen Hamlets long-term care facility
- Kin Village assisted living facility
- Milieu Children and Family Services Society community living facility
- New Vista Care Home long-term care facility
- Normanna long-term care facility
- Rideau Retirement Centre independent living facility

### **Learn More:**

For a listing of the community notifications, including school notifications, visit: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/public-exposures>

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 learn about the Sept. 3 modelling exercise, visit:

[https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/COVID19\\_Going\\_Forward\\_Sept\\_2020.pdf](https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/COVID19_Going_Forward_Sept_2020.pdf)

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](http://www.bouncebackbc.ca)

Or: [www.anxietycanada.com](http://www.anxietycanada.com)

For B.C.'s surgical renewal plan and the first report on its progress from July 21, visit:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0228-001337>

For more information about BC's Restart Plan, visit: [www.gov.bc.ca/restartbc](http://www.gov.bc.ca/restartbc)

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](http://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/](https://www.facebook.com/BCProvincialGovernment/)

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

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/ProvinceofBC](https://www.youtube.com/ProvinceofBC)

**Media contact:** Ministry of Health Communications  
250 952-1887 (media line)

---

**From:** Prevost, Jean-Marc GCPE:EX <Jean-Marc.Prevost@gov.bc.ca>

**Sent:** September 16, 2020 2:19 PM

**To:** van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>; 'Nicola Lambrechts' <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>; Yeung, Lucinda HLTH:EX <Lucinda.Yeung@gov.bc.ca>; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX <Hannah.Lawrie@gov.bc.ca>

**Cc:** Greer, Shannon GCPE:EX <Shannon.Greer@gov.bc.ca>

**Subject:** RE: Today's Statement - Sept 16

Additional line about school notifications attached in tracks.

Also if you want to visit the Fraser page, it is up now:

<https://www.fraserhealth.ca/health-topics-a-to-z/coronavirus/school-notifications#.X2J8DbqWwZL>

**JMP**

Desk: 236-478-0302  
Cell: 250-886-2154

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**From:** van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX <[Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** September 16, 2020 1:49 PM  
**To:** Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <[Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca)>; 'Nicola Lambrechts' <[nicola@nlkstrategies.ca](mailto:nicola@nlkstrategies.ca)>; Yeung, Lucinda HLTH:EX <[Lucinda.Yeung@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lucinda.Yeung@gov.bc.ca)>; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX <[Hannah.Lawrie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Hannah.Lawrie@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Prevost, Jean-Marc GCPE:EX <[Jean-Marc.Prevost@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jean-Marc.Prevost@gov.bc.ca)>; Greer, Shannon GCPE:EX <[Shannon.Greer@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Shannon.Greer@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Today's Statement - Sept 16

Lets get a line in there about central reporting of school outbreaks – similar to the media response Shannon drafted.

---

**From:** Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <[Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** September 16, 2020 1:41 PM  
**To:** 'Nicola Lambrechts' <[nicola@nlkstrategies.ca](mailto:nicola@nlkstrategies.ca)>; Yeung, Lucinda HLTH:EX <[Lucinda.Yeung@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lucinda.Yeung@gov.bc.ca)>; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX <[Hannah.Lawrie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Hannah.Lawrie@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Prevost, Jean-Marc GCPE:EX <[Jean-Marc.Prevost@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jean-Marc.Prevost@gov.bc.ca)>; van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX <[Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca)>; Greer, Shannon GCPE:EX <[Shannon.Greer@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Shannon.Greer@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Today's Statement - Sept 16

Very nice! Just one suggestion.  
B

*Dr Bonnie Henry  
Provincial Health Officer  
Office of the PHO  
Ministry of Health*

s.15; s.19

*Mailing address: PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, BC  
V8W 9P4  
[Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca)*

Phone: s.17; s.19

*I gratefully acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional unceded territory of the Lekwungen Peoples, specifically the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. Hay'sxw'qu Si'em*

Warning: This email is intended only for the use of the individual or organization to whom it is addressed. It may contain information that is privileged or confidential. Any distribution, disclosure, copying, or other use by anyone else is strictly prohibited. If you have received this in error, please telephone or e-mail the sender immediately and delete the message.

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**From:** Nicola Lambrechts <[nicola@nlkstrategies.ca](mailto:nicola@nlkstrategies.ca)>  
**Sent:** September 16, 2020 1:03 PM  
**To:** Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <[Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca)>; Yeung, Lucinda HLTH:EX <[Lucinda.Yeung@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Lucinda.Yeung@gov.bc.ca)>; Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX <[Hannah.Lawrie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Hannah.Lawrie@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Prevost, Jean-Marc GCPE:EX <[Jean-Marc.Prevost@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jean-Marc.Prevost@gov.bc.ca)>; van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX <[Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca)>; Greer, Shannon GCPE:EX <[Shannon.Greer@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Shannon.Greer@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Today's Statement - Sept 16

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Hi Everyone - Attached please find today's statement for review and approval.

Thank you,  
Nicola

---

Nicola Lambrechts  
**NLK Strategies**

604.970.9113  
nicola@nlkstrategies.ca

[www.nlkstrategies.ca](http://www.nlkstrategies.ca)

Page 35 of 90 to/à Page 37 of 90

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

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

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YouTube: [www.youtube.com/ProvinceofBC](https://www.youtube.com/ProvinceofBC)

**Media contact:** Ministry of Health Communications  
250 952-1887 (media line)



**Fw:**

---

From: Byres, David W HLTH:EX <David.Byres@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX <Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>, Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: September 17, 2020 1:05:45 PM PDT  
Attachments: 2020HLTH0052-001765.pdf

Geoff

As follow up to our discussion earlier this morning:

Attached is today's joint statement on the COVID-19 response that includes a link to information on school notifications. The link takes you to the BCCDC website where information is available for each health authority. In addition, the health authorities are placing information / links onto their public webpages.

The BCCDC website info (with links to each health authority) is available at: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/public-exposures>

An example from Vancouver Coastal Health Authority: <http://www.vch.ca/covid-19/school-outbreaks>

**David Byres, DNP, RN, CHE**  
**Associate Deputy Minister, Clinical Leadership**  
Ministry of Health  
PO Box 9650 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9P4  
**Cellular** (778) 678-7264  
**Assistant:** Jenifer Sheppard **Phone:** 250 952-1266



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## JOINT STATEMENT

For Immediate Release  
2020HLTH0052-001765  
Sept. 16, 2020

Ministry of Health  
Office of the Provincial Health Officer

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

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"Today, we are announcing 122 new cases, including five epi-linked cases, for a total of 7,498 cases in British Columbia.

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"Alerts are posted on the BC Centre for Disease Control's (BCCDC) website, as well as on health authorities' websites, providing details on where the potential exposure occurred and what actions to take – whether you need to self-isolate or monitor for symptoms.

"Beginning today, the BCCDC website will also link to regional health authorities' school notification pages, providing the date and type of notification (outbreak, cluster or exposure) for impacted schools. Fraser Health's school notification page is available now and the other regional health authorities will have theirs ready soon.

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priority for not only COVID-19, but the second equally concerning pandemic of overdose deaths.

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“As we work to support each other, one of the biggest concerns with COVID-19 is the unidentified spread of the virus in our communities. This is why getting tested as soon as you have symptoms is so important.

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  - Vancouver Coastal Health
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    - Bear Creek Villa independent-living facility
    - Cherington Place long-term care facility
    - Evergreen Hamlets long-term care facility
    - Kin Village assisted-living facility
    - Milieu Children and Family Services Society community-living facility
    - New Vista Care Home long-term care facility

- Normanna long-term care facility
- Rideau Retirement Centre independent-living facility

### **Learn More:**

For a listing of the community notifications, including school notifications, visit: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/public-exposures>

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>

For the last modelling information presented on Sept. 3, visit:  
[https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/COVID19\\_Going\\_Forward\\_Sept\\_2020.pdf](https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/COVID19_Going_Forward_Sept_2020.pdf)

To see a map of COVID-19 cases by local health area, visit:  
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<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing>

For mental health and anxiety support, visit: [www.bouncebackbc.ca](http://www.bouncebackbc.ca)  
Or: [www.anxietycanada.com](http://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](http://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 second monthly progress report on B.C.'s surgical renewal plan, visit:  
[https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/2020\\_surgical-renewal-commitment-progress-report-June-July-2020.pdf](https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/2020_surgical-renewal-commitment-progress-report-June-July-2020.pdf)

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**Contact:**

Ministry of Health  
Communications  
250 952-1887 (media line)

---

Connect with the Province of B.C. at: [news.gov.bc.ca/connect](https://news.gov.bc.ca/connect)

## FW: Today's Statement - Sept 17

---

From: van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>, Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: September 17, 2020 4:07:48 PM PDT  
Attachments: ST\_Covid\_Sept 17 (130pm).docx  
Approved?

For Immediate Release  
September 17, 2020

Ministry of Health  
Office of the Provincial Health Officer

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**Media contact:** Ministry of Health Communications  
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---

## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
September 17, 2020

Ministry of Health  
Office of the Provincial Health Officer

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**Media contact:** Ministry of Health Communications  
250 952-1887 (media line)

## RE: Today's Statement - Sept 17

---

From: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>  
To: van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>, Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: September 17, 2020 4:17:45 PM PDT  
Attachments: ST\_Covid\_Sept 17 (130pm).docx

Here is our approved version.

b

*Dr Bonnie Henry  
Provincial Health Officer  
Office of the PHO  
Ministry of Health*

s.15; s.19

*Mailing address: PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT  
Victoria, BC  
V8W 9P4  
[Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca)*

Phone: s.17; s.19

*I gratefully acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional unceded territory of the Lekwungen Peoples, specifically the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. Hay'sxw'qu Si'em*

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**From:** van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** September 17, 2020 4:08 PM  
**To:** Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** FW: Today's Statement - Sept 17

Approved?

s.13

Page 53 of 90 to/à Page 60 of 90

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

## FW: article

---

From: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>, Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>, Rongve, Ian HLTH:EX <Ian.Rongve@gov.bc.ca>, Gustafson, Reka [BCCDC] <reka.gustafson@phsa.ca>, Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX <Brian.Emerson@gov.bc.ca>, Behn Smith, Daniele HLTH:EX <Daniele.BehnSmith@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: September 18, 2020 11:31:26 AM PDT

Thought I would share as this is really well written and describes the state we are in nicely.

My best,  
Bonnie

*Dr Bonnie Henry  
Provincial Health Officer  
Office of the PHO  
Ministry of Health*

s.15; s.19

*Mailing address: PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT  
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**From:** Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** September 18, 2020 9:54 AM  
**To:** Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** s.22  
**Subject:** article

### **Fears of a second wave: Don't panic just yet**

National Post

Friday, September 18, 2020

Page A01

By Matt Gurney

Canadians should not panic at the prospect of a second wave of the **pandemic**. And not just because panic is unhelpful. There genuinely are reasons to have some optimism that, even in the event of a full-blown resurgence of **COVID-19**, we will perform better this time.

But there's a long way between avoiding panic and thinking all is well. All is not well.

The challenge of the second wave, in many ways, will be the same as that of the first. **COVID-19** is difficult to track in anything close to real time. By the time you realize you have a problem, you're in the middle of said problem, and even slamming on the brakes at that point - closing all non-essential, in-store businesses, emptying the schools, erecting protective rings of protocols and PPE around our hospitals and long-term-care homes - won't change that. It'll avoid future problems, but you'll be stuck with the one you're in.

Without widespread, rapid, reliable home-based testing, which does not yet exist, we'll always be reacting to information that's weeks out of date. Public-**health** professionals, and the politicians they advise, must determine the decisions they should make today, to head off problems in the future, using data from 10-20 days ago.

We know this. Once the reality of **COVID-19**'s relatively long incubation period was established, as well as the facts of asymptomatic and presymptomatic transmission, we knew the score regarding this nasty new virus. It's a bitter pill to swallow, but facts often are. When fighting something like **COVID**, where all the useful indicators lag, you'll only ever see your red line in your rear-view mirror.



This is not a call for reimposed restrictions (though Ontario did indeed amend, downward, the size of permitted indoor and outdoor social gatherings on Thursday). This is, if anything, a call for humility. There are real economic and social imperatives for maximizing the reopening of our economy - this is especially true of schools. But we should not confuse, in ourselves or others, a steely willingness to take a chance with a confident declaration that there is no risk. There is risk. Real risk. But we just have to live with that.

This is not something all of us are good at. Life during **COVID-19** is full of uncertainty.

We live in an era where every sniffle could be something deadly (even if only to someone else) and where things like our next paycheck and our children's school staying open cannot be taken for granted. There is a natural desire - newspaper columnists are in no way immune to it! - to seize on every bit of good news, every encouraging trend, or even simply news that is less grim than expected, as a sign that normal is just around the corner.

Maybe it is. But we cannot assume the best just because it soothes our nerves.

We are not just managing a virus now, or a ravaged economy.

We're managing human psychology, and our own private hopes, expectations and fears. Normal probably looks and feels like something different to each of us, but the common thread of this shared experience is our longing for it back.

But people sometimes wanting something so badly they convince themselves it's already here. Or they feel so close to it that they take risks to grab it. Pilots sometimes call this "get-home-itis." In a 1968 edition of *Combat Crew Magazine*, published by the U.S. air force's Strategic Air Command, Col. Richard N. Oster wrote, "You won't find the term in any dictionary or medical text.

Nonetheless, it is a term that is accepted and widely used. Roughly defined, it means, 'An intense and compelling desire to return to home station at the earliest possible time at the expense of aircraft checklist deviations and general disregard of good judgment.'" Oster was writing about enormous planes lugging around hydrogen bombs, but the same challenge faces us all, and that includes our public-health officials and our political leaders.

We can manage a second wave, if we're smart. We can avoid a third and fourth wave, if we're smart. We can adapt our society and economy to achieve the maximum return to normalcy while keeping **COVID-19** at a manageable level, until either vaccination or herd immunity (or both) turn this virus into just another annual pest we learn how to live with. If we're smart. And not even extraordinarily smart. Only in the 20th century did we begin to win the war against pestilence and plague. For virtually all of human history we lived under the imminent danger of outbreak.

We have forgotten how intimately our ancestors knew the danger of disease.

We can beat **COVID**. But we can't necessarily do so as fast as we want - need - to, and we can make things far worse if we forget that. And that's the danger of this moment. So, sure, of course, don't panic. But don't let your guard down either. Constant vigilance and discipline aren't easy. But what other choice is there?

National Post [magurney@postmedia.com](mailto:magurney@postmedia.com) [Twitter.com/MattGurney](https://twitter.com/MattGurney) [Link to Story](#)

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## **FINAL OCT 5 school reopening media briefing.pptx**

---

From: Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>

To: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: October 4, 2020 5:04:50 PM PDT

Attachments: FINAL OCT 5 school reopening media briefing.pptx

Draft – still being tweaked with another slide to be added tomorrow morning on modelling. You will notice the 45% on slide 19 which Bonnie will explain tomorrow. Steve

# COVID-19: Protecting Our Restart

- Prepared for BC Ministry of Health
- October 1, 2020



Stay Informed Via These Resources:  
[gov.bc.ca/Covid-19](https://gov.bc.ca/Covid-19) | [bccdc.ca](https://bccdc.ca) | 1-888-COVID19

Symptom Self-Assessment:  
[covid19.thrive.health](https://covid19.thrive.health)



# Epidemiology

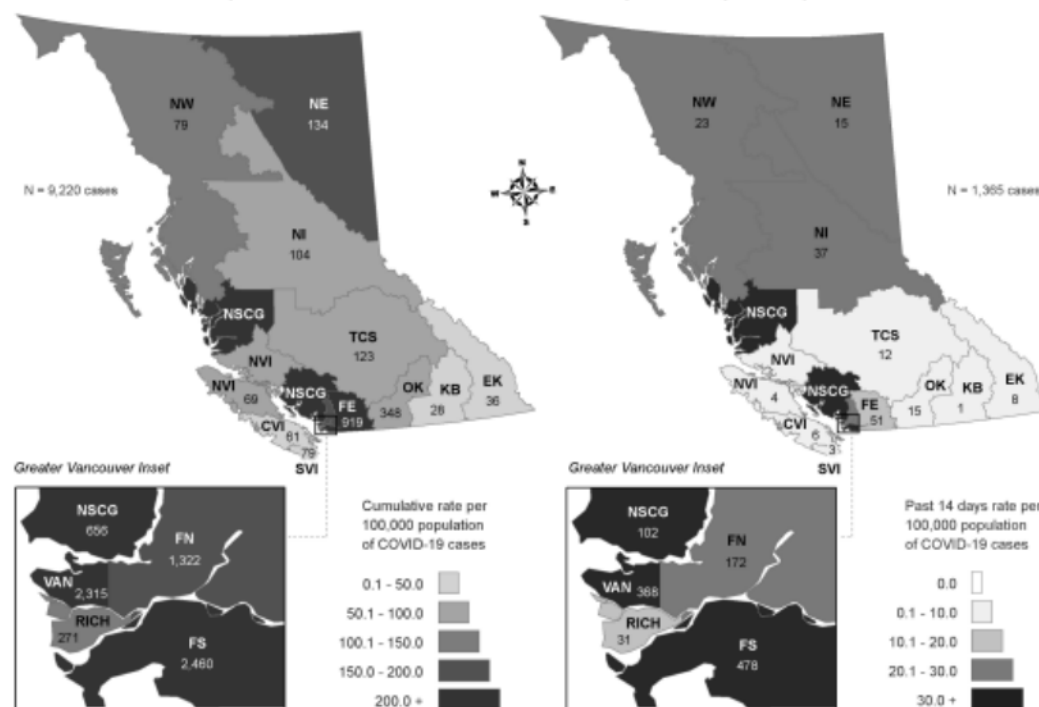
*How and Where the Virus Has  
Affected People in BC*

## Geographic Distribution of COVID-19 by Health Service Delivery Area of Case Residence

### Geographic Distribution of COVID-19 by Health Service Delivery Area of Case Residence

Cumulative total: cases reported Jan 1 to Oct 1, 2020

Past 14 days: cases reported Sep 18 to Oct 1, 2020



Notes: Cases are mapped by location of residence; cases with unknown residence and from out of province are not mapped. Data source: we operate in a live database environment; case information from the 5 regional health authorities of British Columbia are updated as it becomes available. How to interpret the maps: The map on the left (blue) illustrates the geographic distribution of all reported cases from January 1, 2020 onwards. The map on the right (brown) illustrates the reported cases during the past 14 days. Health Service Delivery Areas (HSDA) with higher rates are illustrated in darker colour shading. The number of reported cases appears under each HSDA label. Note that not all COVID-19 infected individuals are tested and reported; the virus may be circulating undetected in the community, including in areas where no cases have been identified by public health. Map created October 1, 2020 by BCCDC.

# Weekly Profile of COVID-19 Cases



9,220	total cases
667	new this week ↓



50	% female sex
38	median age



779	ever hospitalized
52	new this week ↓



8	% cases hospitalized
67	median age



235	deaths
6	new this week ↓



3	% cases died
85	median age



7,695	removed from isolation
778	new this week

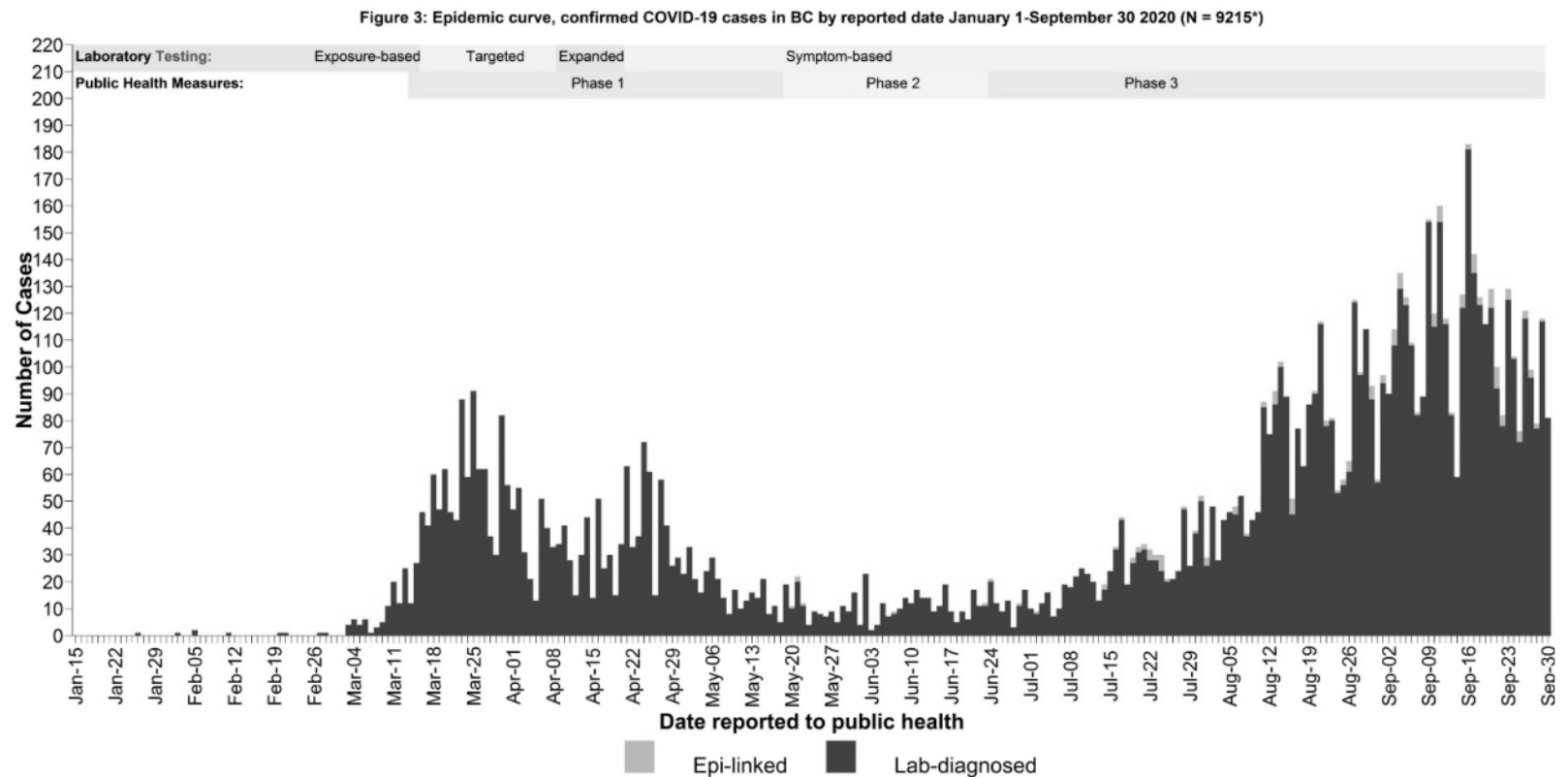


83	% cases removed
1,261	active cases ↓

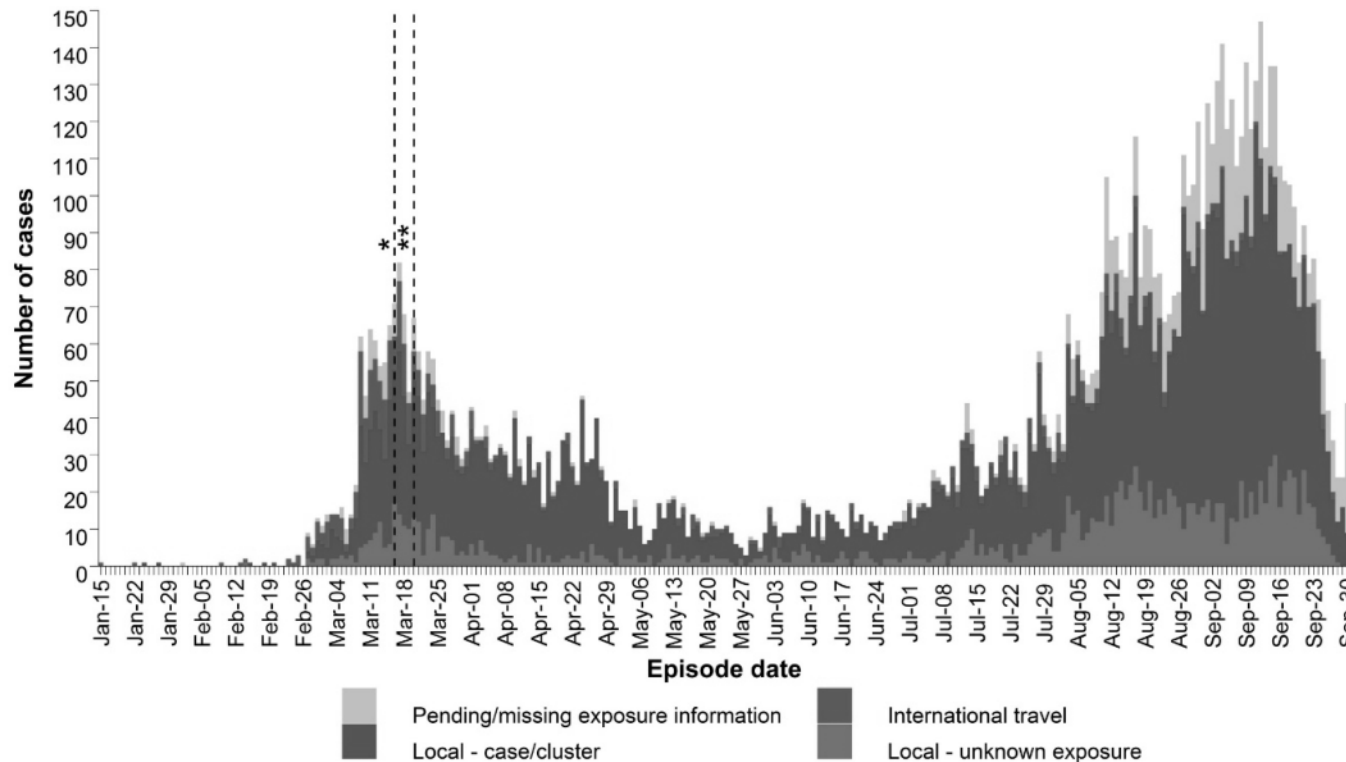
**Note:** Weekly comparison represents provincial data from September 25-October 1 compared to September 18-24, 2020.

# Epidemic curve, COVID-19 cases in B.C. by reported date January 1 – September 23, 2020 (N=8,547)

Cases have increased since the middle of July



## Likely source of infection for cases by episode date, January 15 – September 24, 2020 (N=8,537)



The majority of cases are related to local acquisition through a known case or cluster

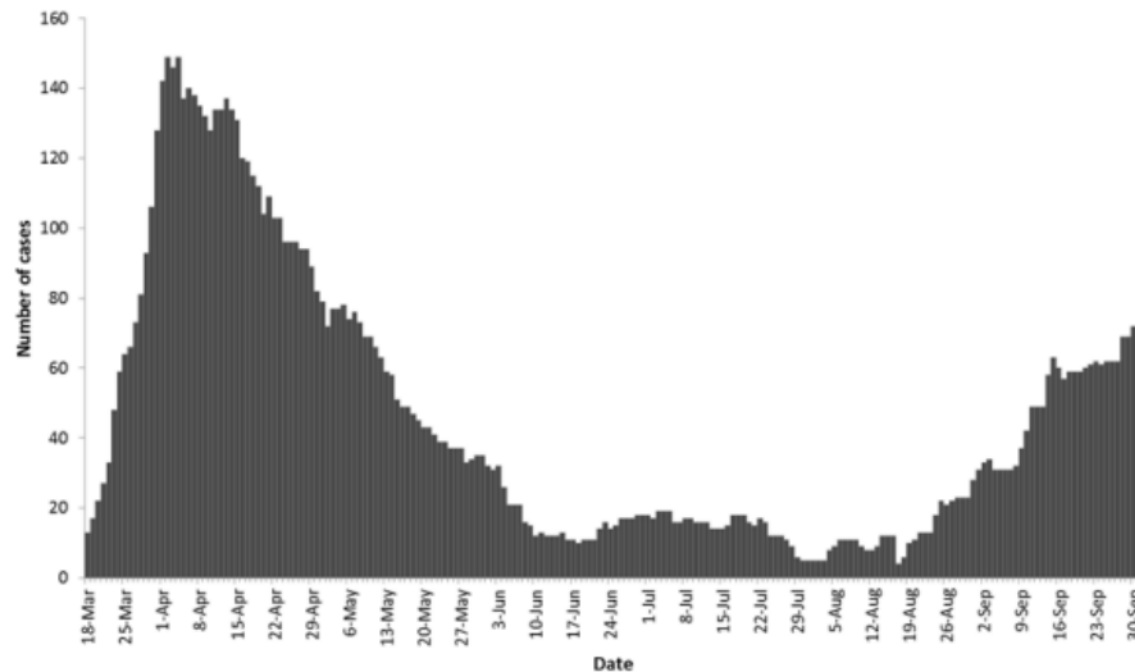
\* March 16: Entry of foreign nationals banned; symptomatic individuals banned from flights to Canada; international flights restricted to four national airports.

\*\* March 20: US/Canada border closed to non-essential travel.



# Number of COVID-19 cases in hospital by day, BC, March 18 – September 24, 2020

Figure 12: Number of COVID-19 cases in hospital by day, BC, March 18 – October 1, 2020

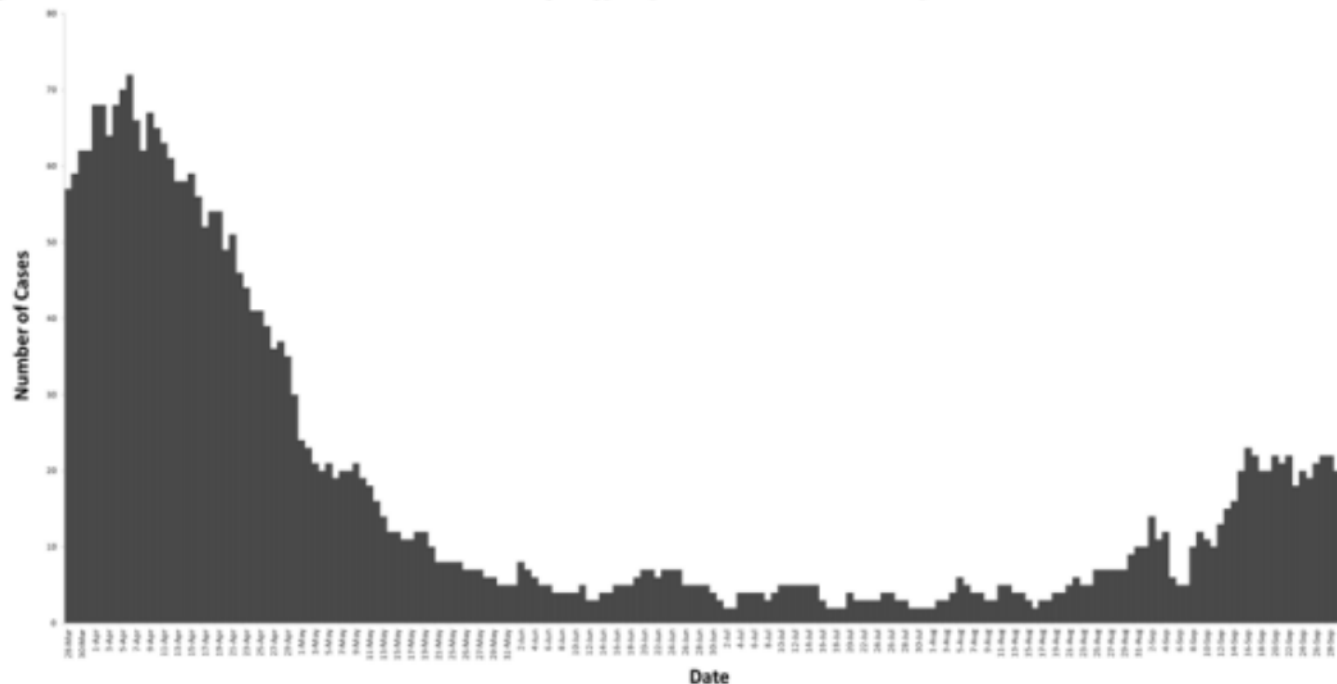


Data available starting March 18. For dates with no data available (April 12; Sundays from May 10 onwards; and Saturdays from June 7 onwards), the previous day's

The number of cases currently in hospital is lower than in April

# Total COVID-19 cases in critical care by day, BC, March 25 – September 24, 2020

Figure 11: Total COVID-19 cases in critical care by day, BC, March 25 – October 1, 2020

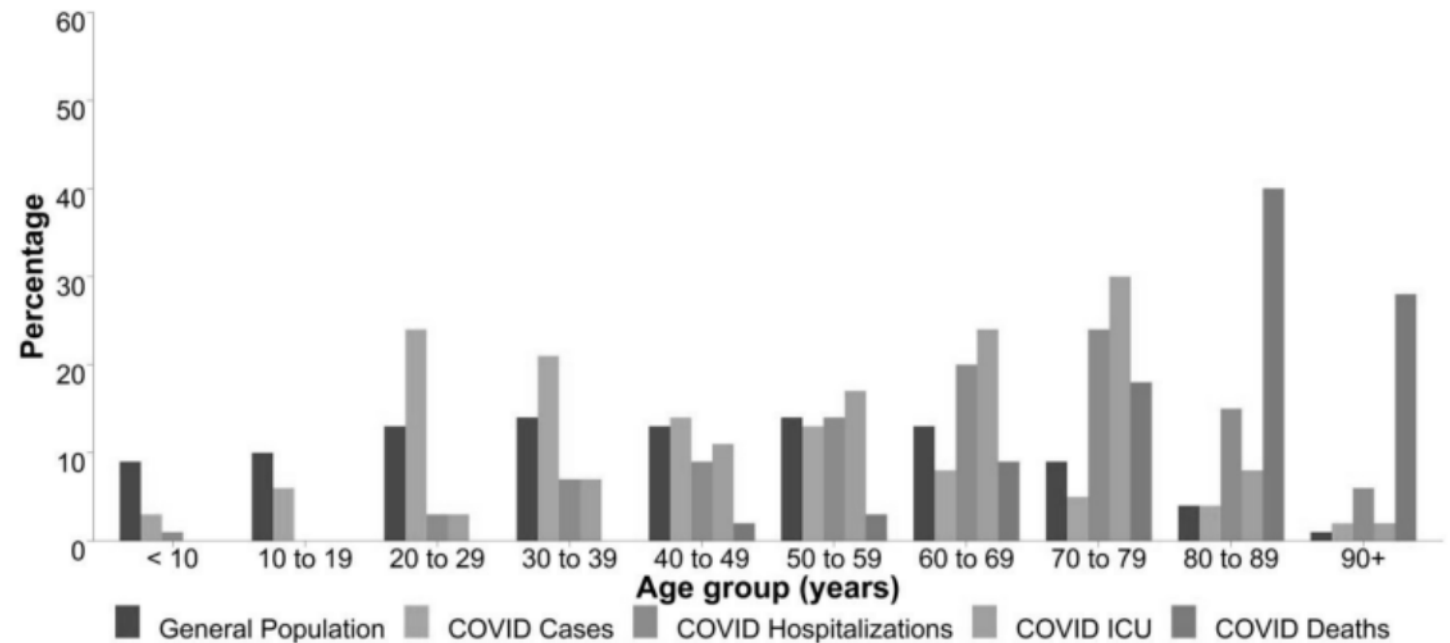


The number of cases currently in critical care is lower than in April

Data source: PHSA October 1, 2020. Note: critical care data may change over time due to small adjustments and improvements in data quality.

# Percentage distribution of COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, ICU admissions and deaths by age, compared the general population of BC, January 1 – September 24, 2020 (N=8,469\*)

Children are underrepresented as cases (yellow bars compared to blue bars)



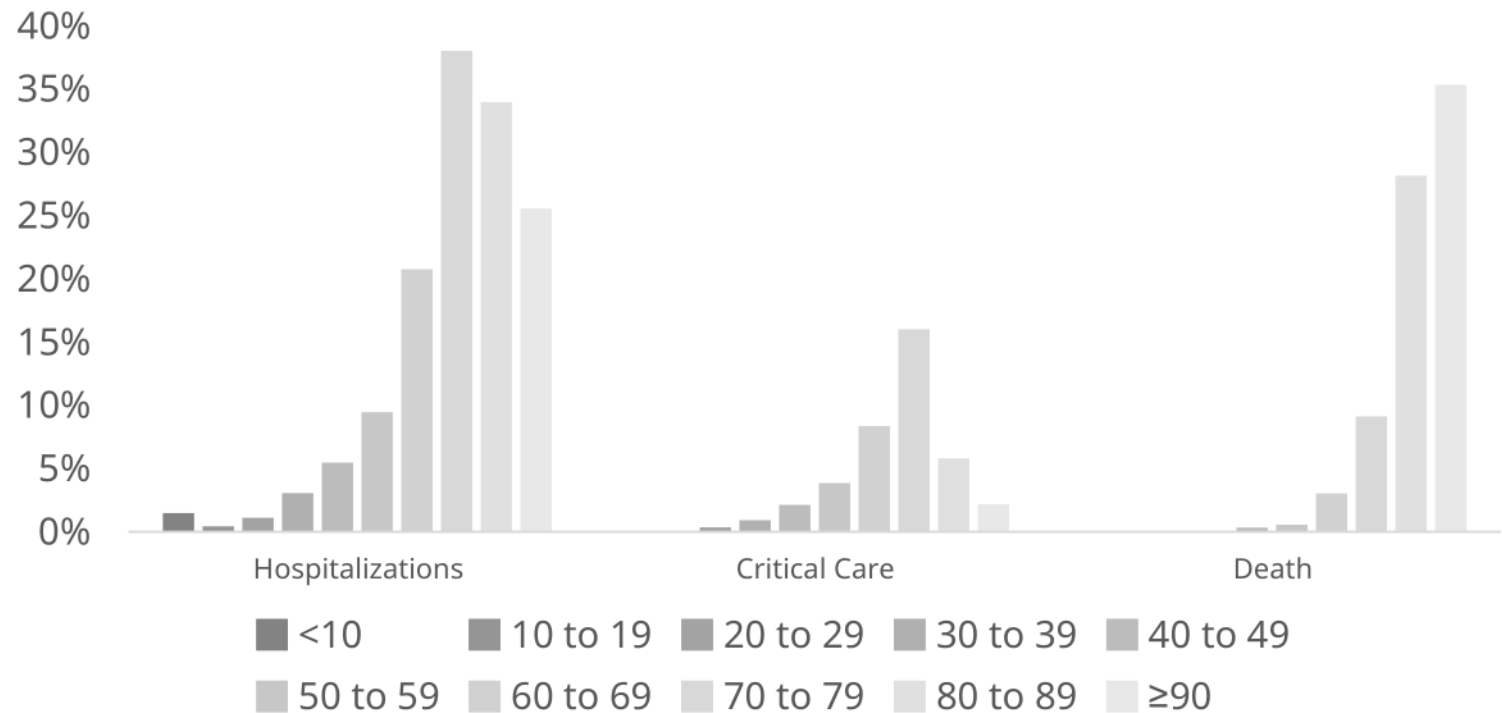
\*Only cases with age information available are included.

† PEOPLE2019-2020 population estimates

Note: COVID hospitalizations have been reported in the <10y and 10-19y age groups but represent <1% of hospitalizations and are therefore not visible.

## Hospitalizations, critical care and deaths by age in BC, January 1 – Sept 24, 2020 (N=8,469\*)

- Severe outcomes uncommon in children and working age adults
- Age 0-19 years**  
< 1 in 100 in-hospital
- Age 20-59 years**  
4 in 100 in hospital



\*only cases with age information available are included.

PEOPLE2019-2020 population estimates

Note: COVID hospitalizations have been reported in the <10y and 10-19y age groups but represent <1% of hospitalizations and are therefore not visible.

# Back to School Update

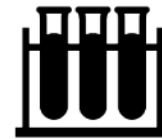
*COVID-19 testing and cases among  
school-aged children*

# Most students with symptoms do not have COVID-19



## COVID cases and schools

1. 500,000+ students and educators are back to school
2. Some students, educators and staff have tested COVID +
3. Like earlier in the pandemic, children still <10% of cases



## COVID testing in children and youth

1. Testing rates have gone up



higher for  
5-12 years



higher for  
13-18 years

2. 6 in 10 tests now spit and gargle



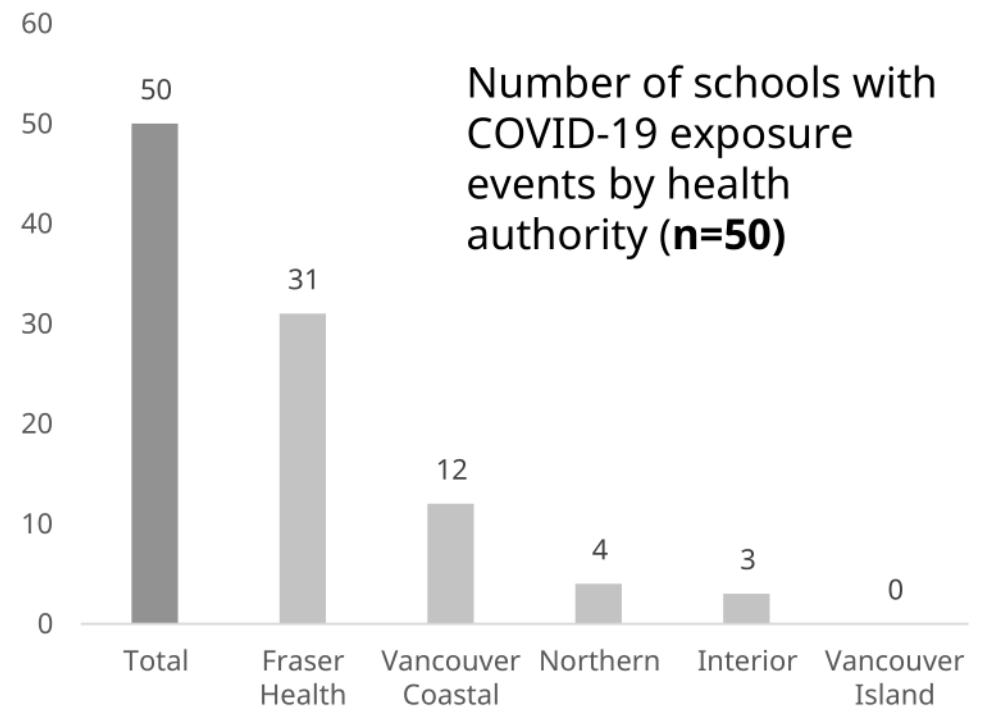
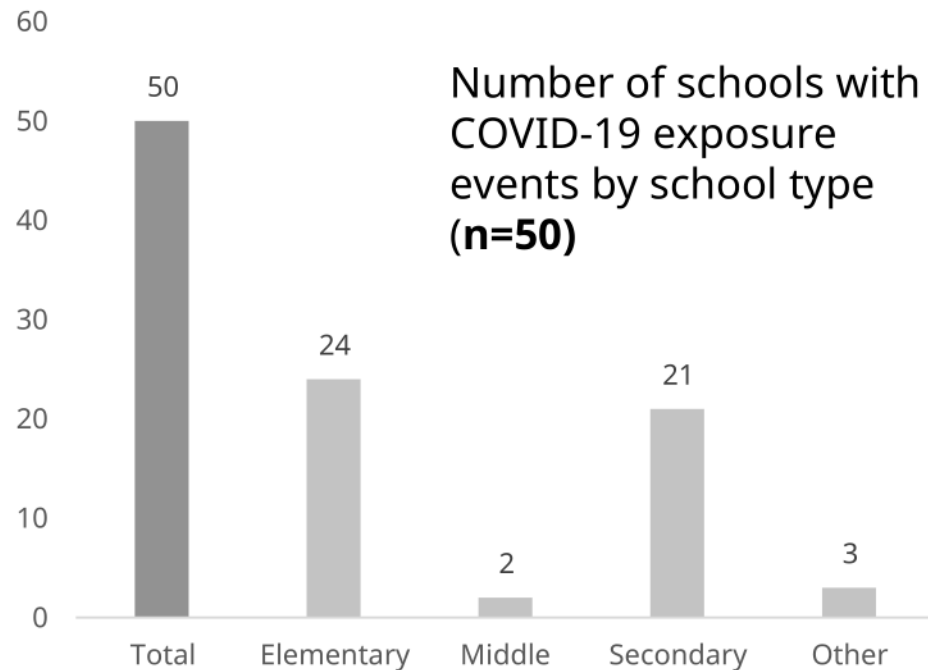
3. Only 7 in 1000 tests are COVID +



993

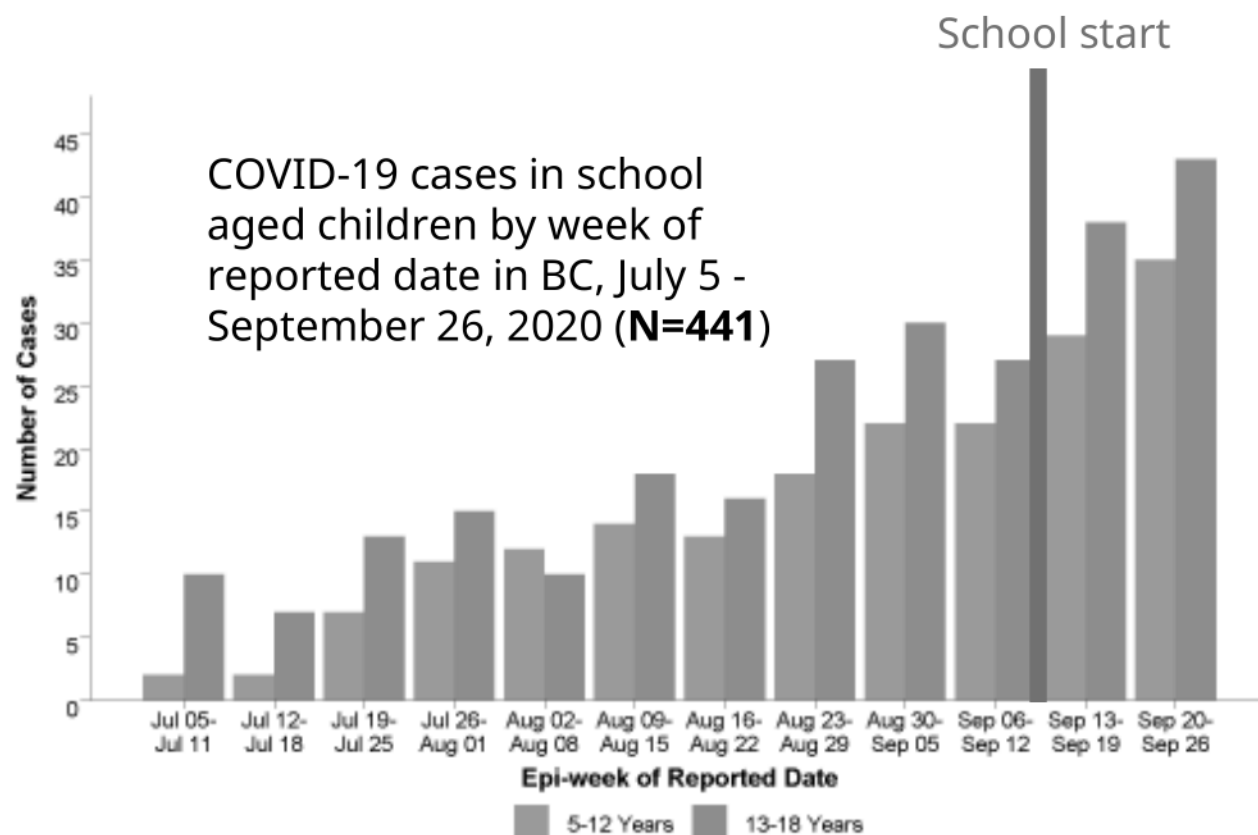
## COVID-19 exposures in a school setting

There have been 50 school exposures in BC's 1,942 schools. The exposures represent both students and adults in the school community. Many exposures were early, suggesting infection occurred prior to school start (as of Oct 1)



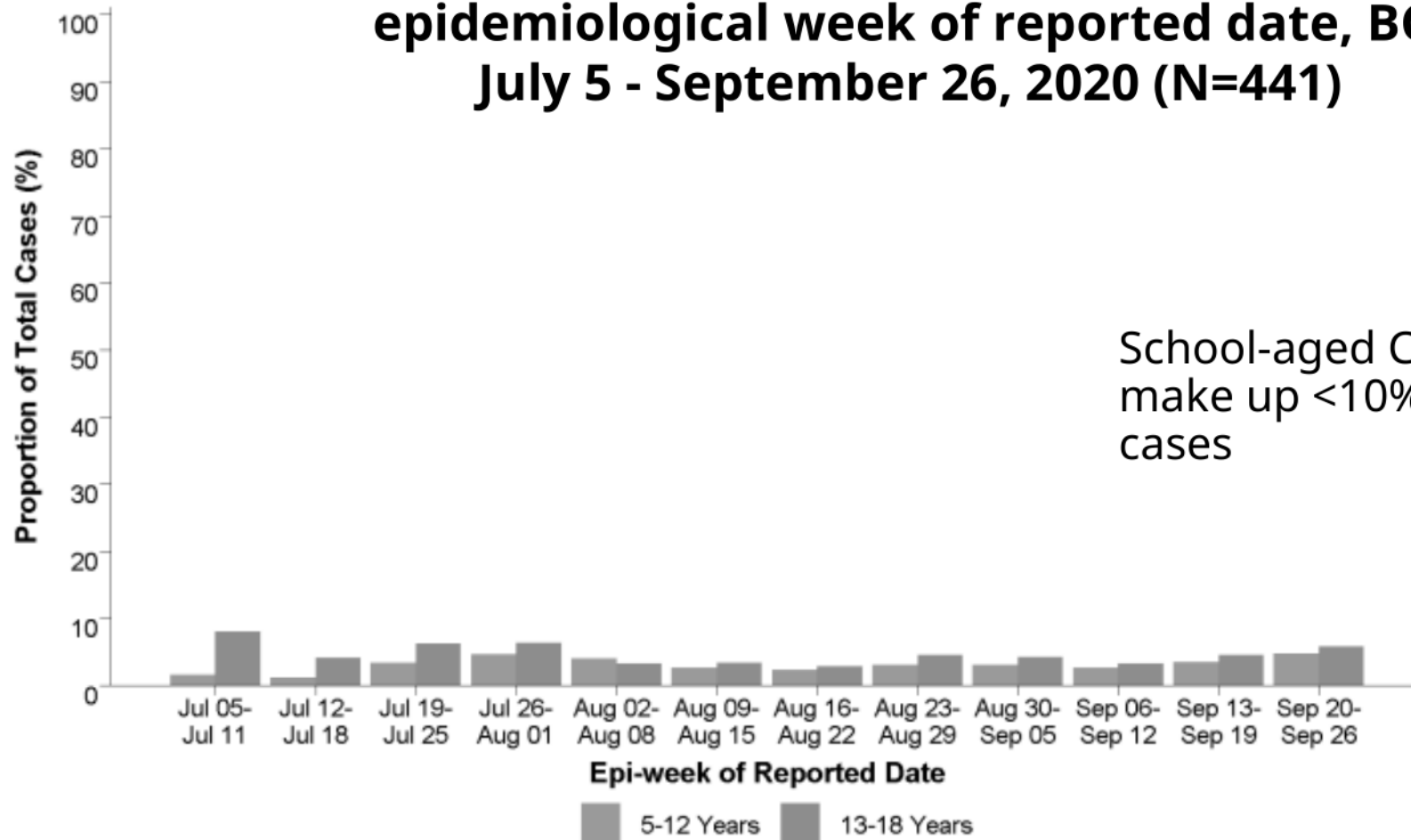
## COVID-19 cases in school aged children by week of reported date in BC, July 5 - September 26, 2020 (N=441)

- Marginal increase in cases among 5 to 18 years since school start
- At this time, most are unrelated to school exposure given delay between symptom onset, testing and reporting





## Proportion of school-aged COVID-19 cases by epidemiological week of reported date, BC, July 5 - September 26, 2020 (N=441)



School-aged COVID-19 cases make up <10% of reported cases

# Weekly Summary of COVID-19 Lab Testing

532,792	total specimens tested
50,450	new this epi week

↑ 15% from last week

10,375	total positive specimens
809	new positive this epi week

1.6% positivity  
↓ 23 % from last week

28 hr	mean turnaround time (TAT)
26 [20-34]	Median [Q1 - Q4] TAT

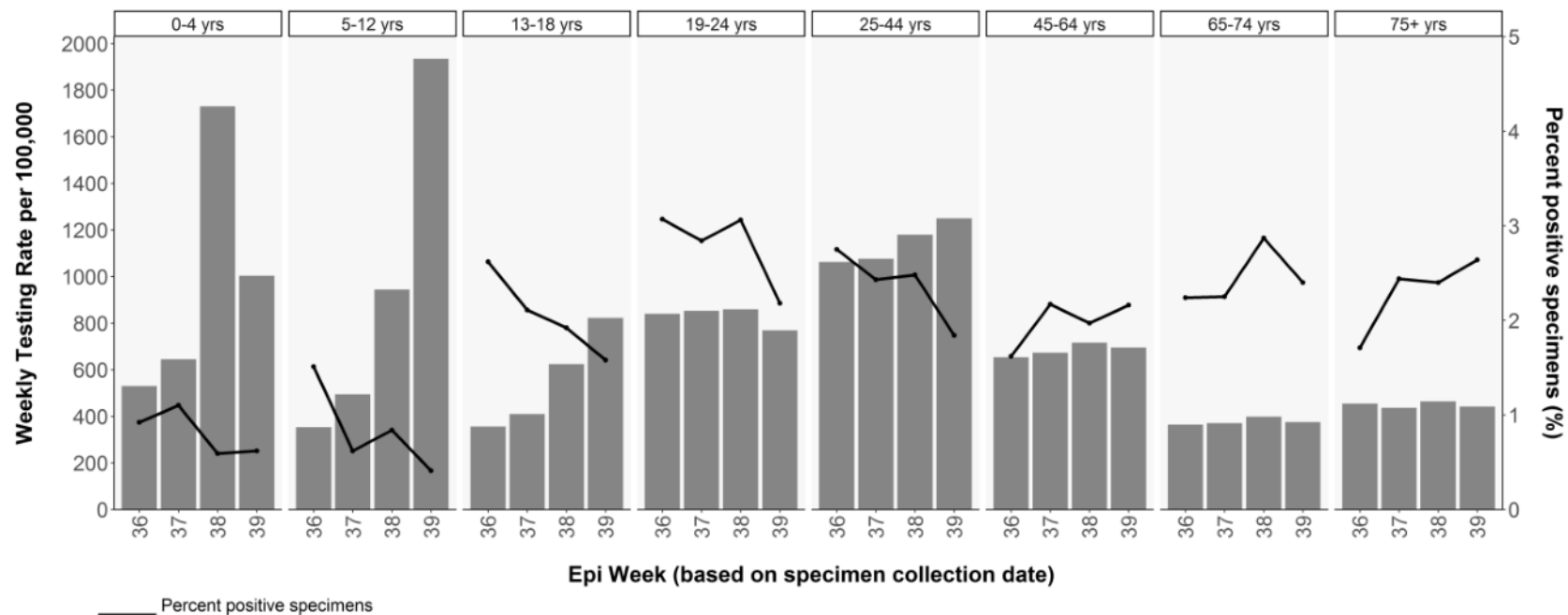
↑ 6.9% TAT from last week

**Data source:** PLOVER extract at 11:00am on Oct 1, 2020.

Integrated Lab Data extract at 11:00am on Oct 1, 2020.  
Epi week 39 ( Sept 20 - 26)

# Proportion of SARS-CoV-2 positive\* respiratory specimens and testing rate by age group and epi week in BC

Testing rates have increased by 2-4 times among children 5-18 years  
1 in 250 tests positive in 5-12 years; 1 in 62 positive 13-18 years

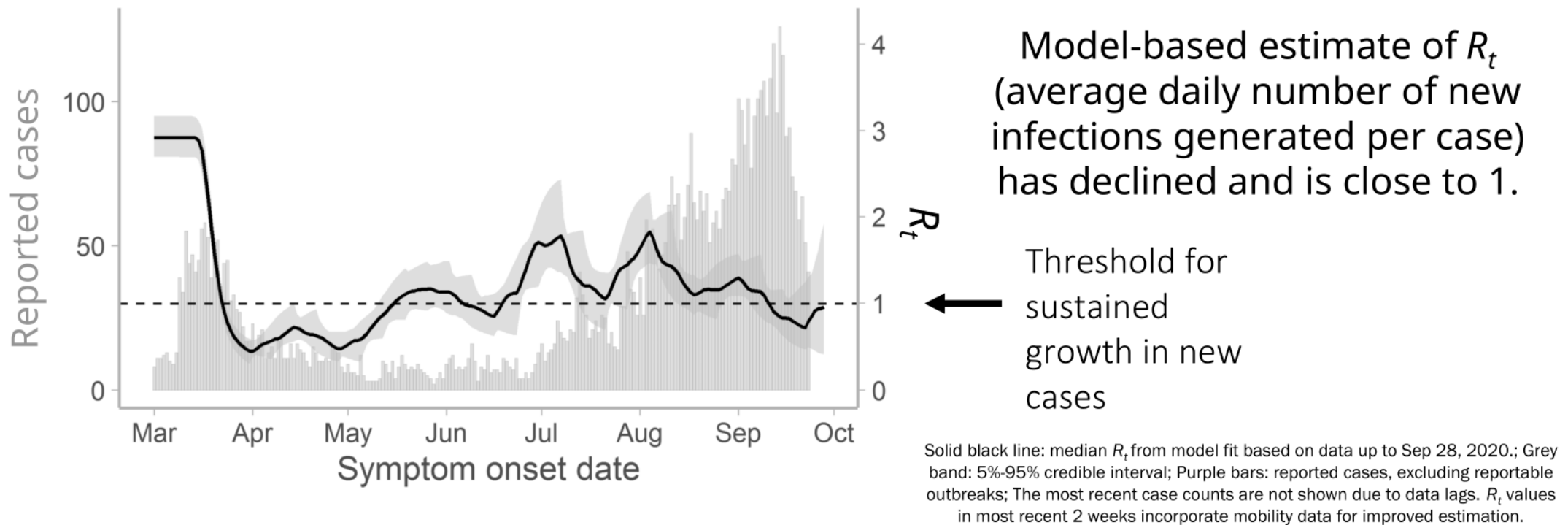


\*Non-resulted specimens are excluded. Specimens collected from individuals with unknown age are excluded.

Data source: PLOVER 29-Sep-2020

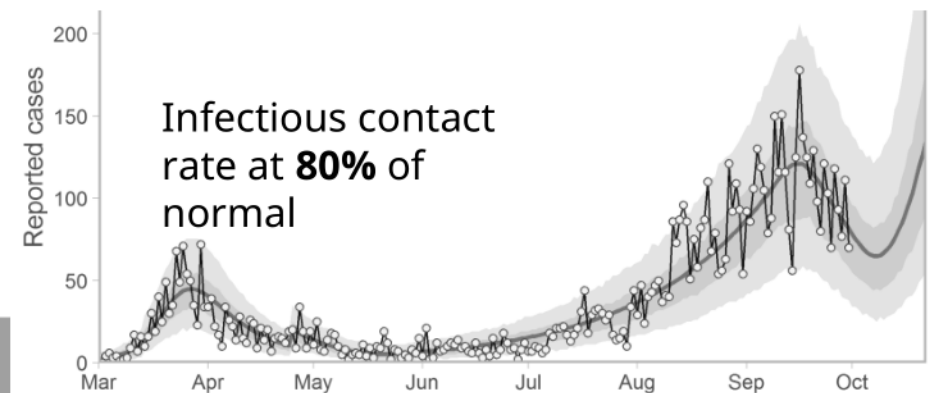
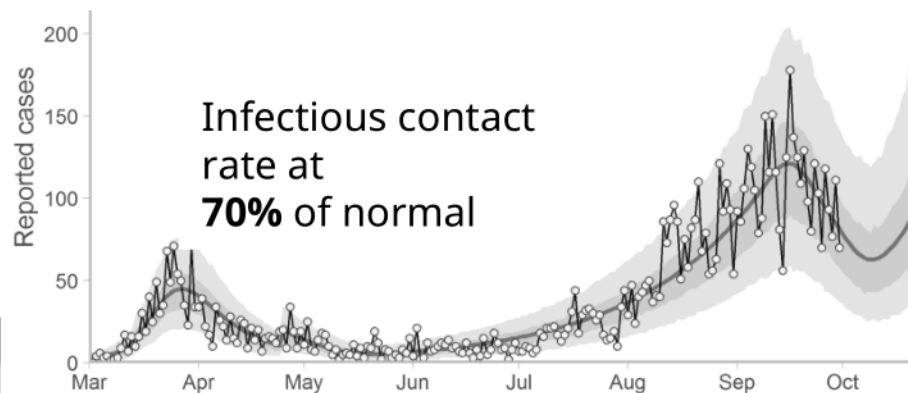
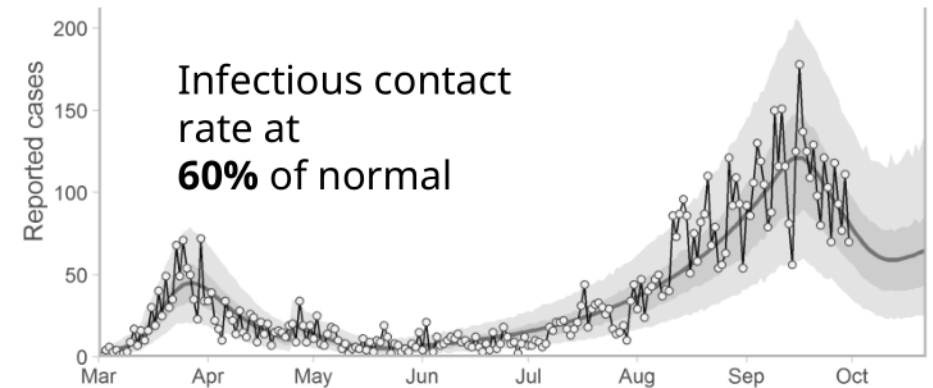
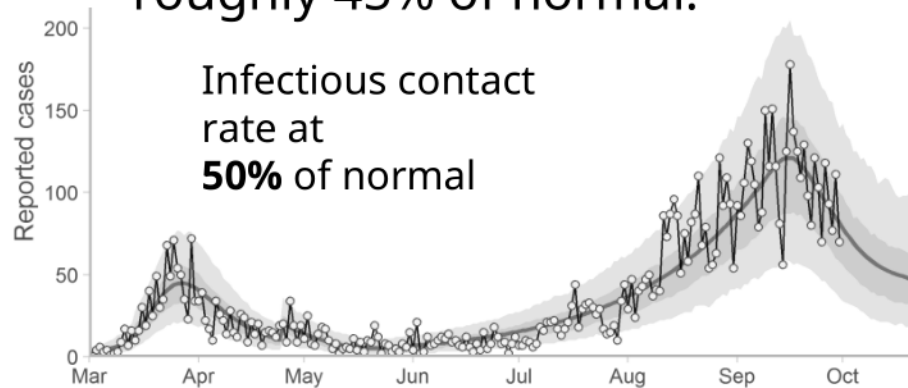
## Dynamic Compartmental Modelling: Recent trends

On average, fewer infections for each case of COVID-19 in recent weeks. Each case is now transmitting to fewer than 1 one person.

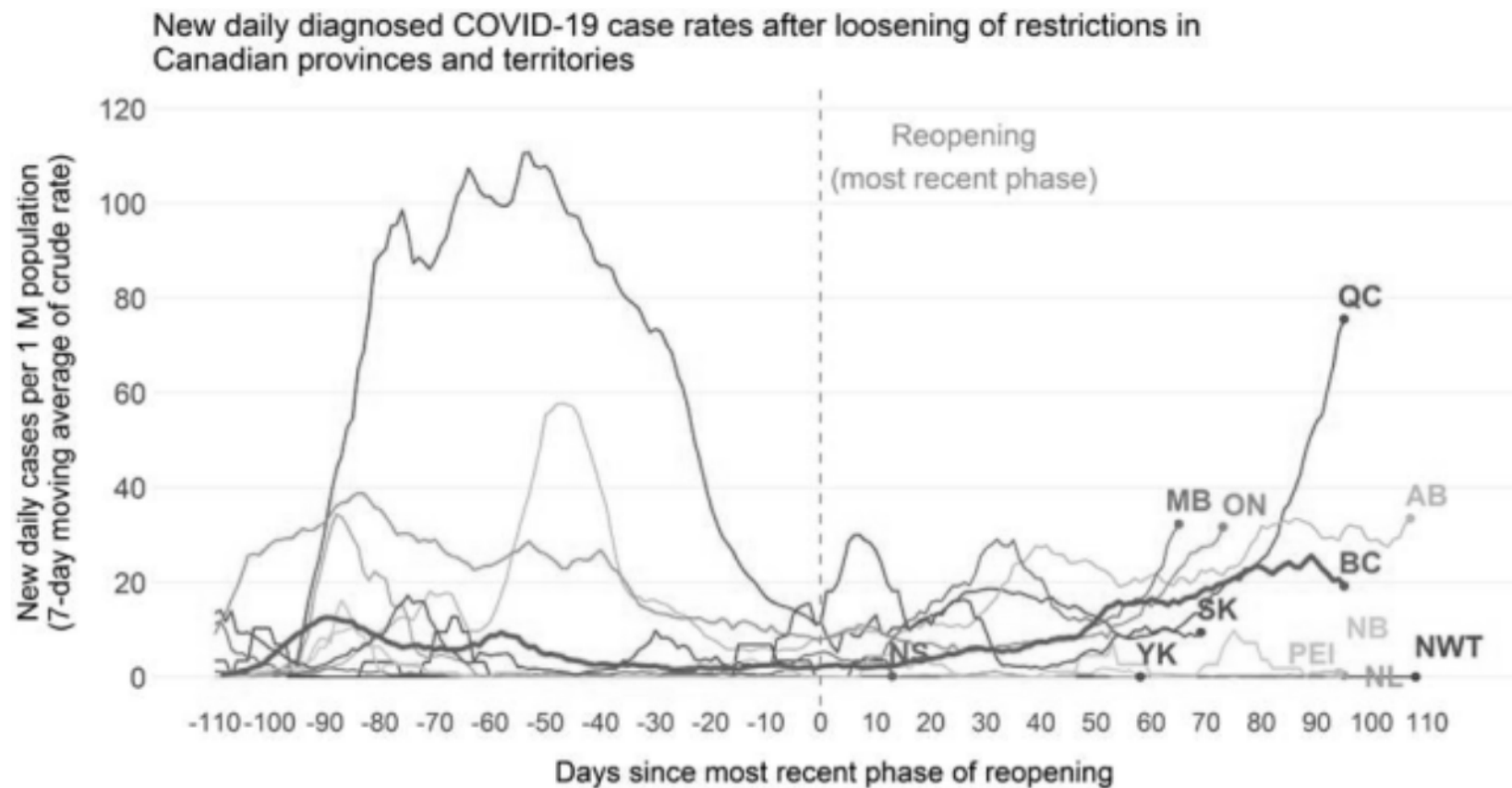


# Dynamic compartmental modeling: scenarios

Currently, the average rate of infectious contacts is estimated to be roughly 45% of normal.

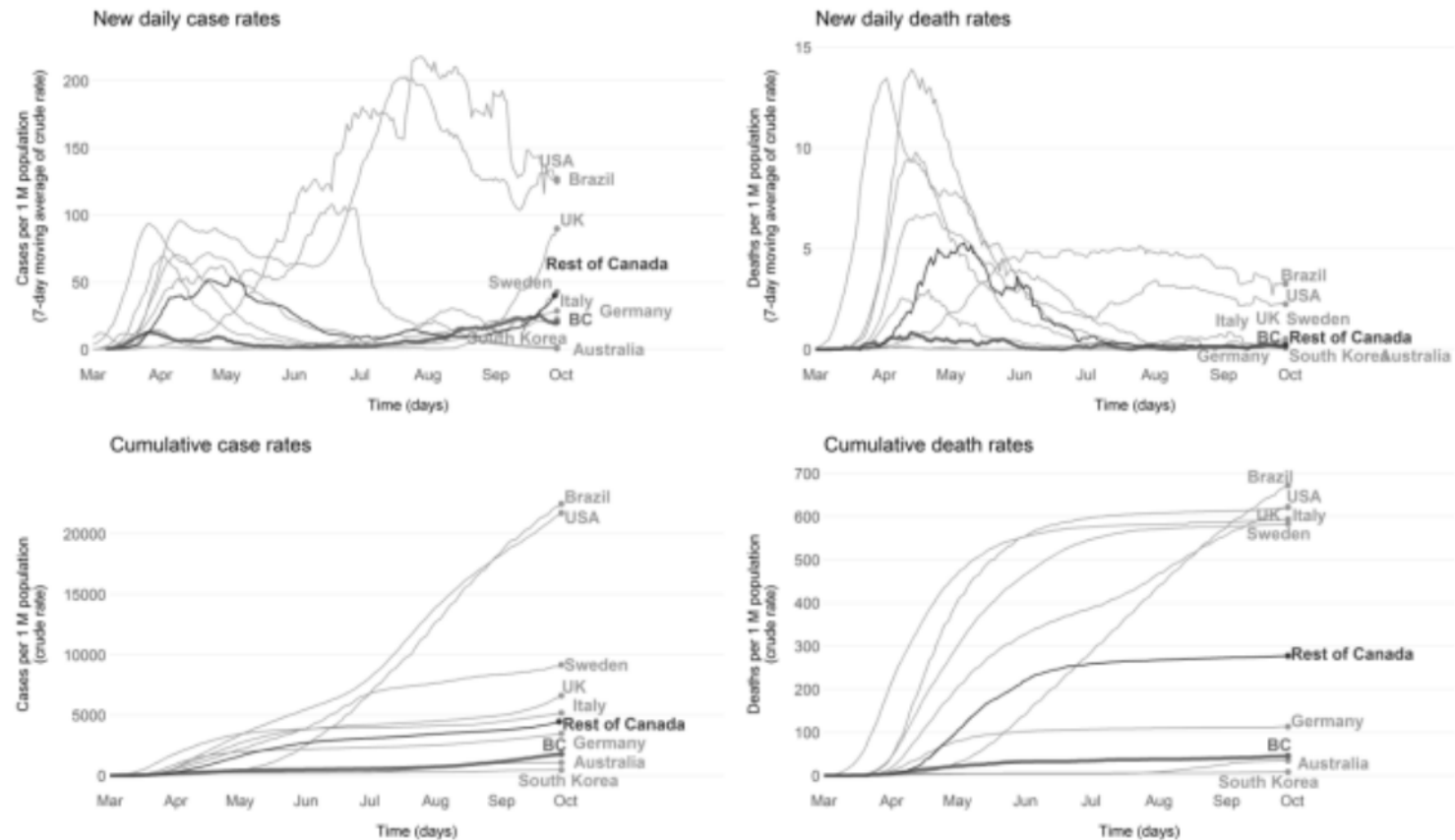


# Daily case rates in BC are stable compared to other large provinces

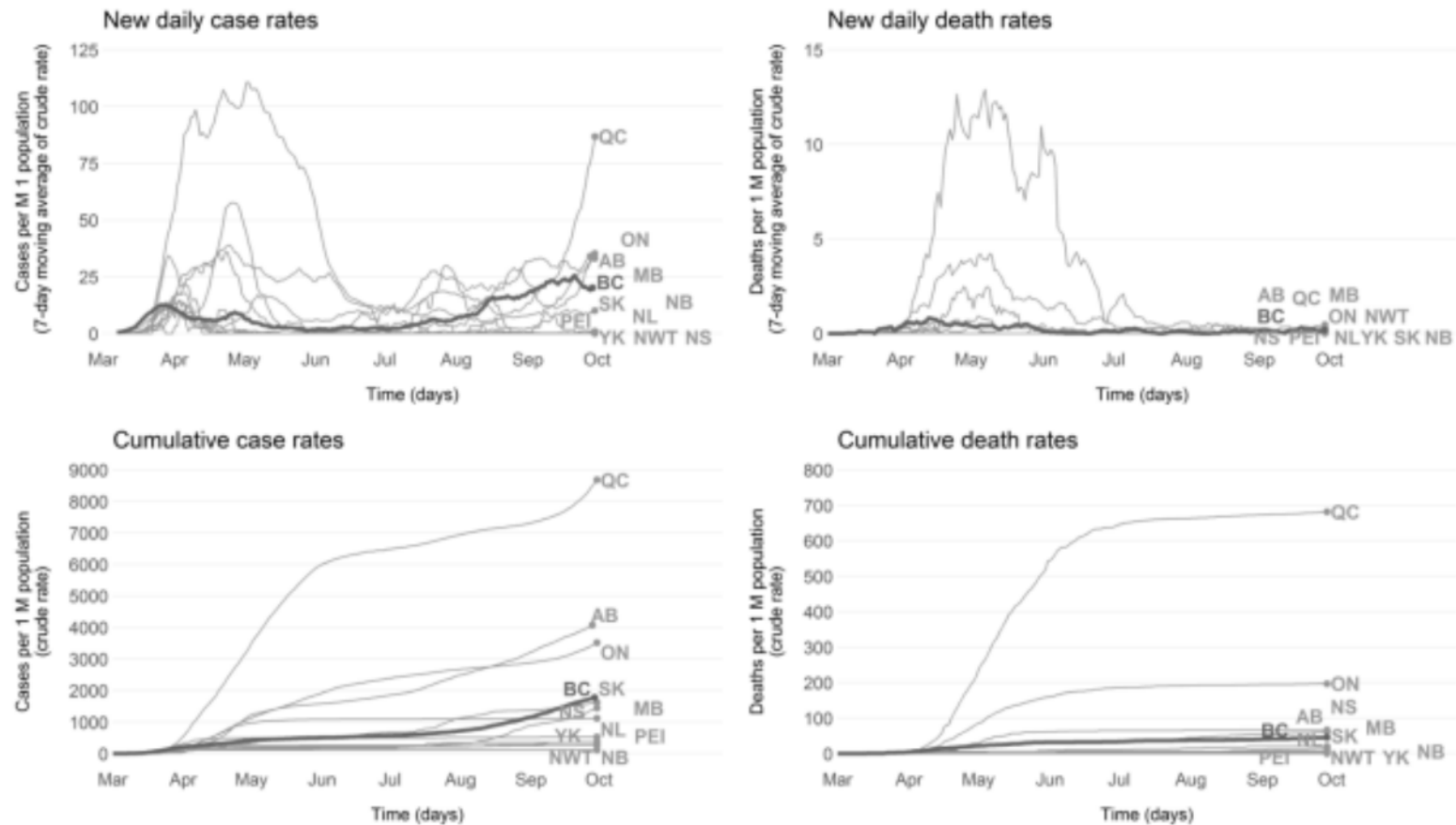


Data up to 2020-09-28

# International Cases



# Cases and Deaths in Canada





# COVID-19: Protecting Our Restart

- Prepared for BC Ministry of Health
- October 1, 2020



Stay Informed Via These Resources:  
[gov.bc.ca/Covid-19](https://gov.bc.ca/Covid-19) | [bccdc.ca](https://bccdc.ca) | 1-888-COVID19

Symptom Self-Assessment:  
[covid19.thrive.health](https://covid19.thrive.health)



## for approval - statement today

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From: van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: October 28, 2020 1:46:03 PM PDT

For Immediate Release  
October 28, 2020

Ministry of Health  
Office of the Provincial Health Officer

### **Joint statement on Province of British Columbia COVID-19 response and latest updates**

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 <sup>s.13</sup> new cases, including four epi-linked cases, for a total of <sup>s.13</sup> cases in British Columbia.

"There are 2,316 active cases of COVID-19 in the province, 5,358 people who are under active public health monitoring as a result of identified exposure to known cases, and 11,244 people who tested positive have recovered.

"Currently, 87 individuals are hospitalized with COVID-19, 25 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 4,545 cases of COVID-19 in the Vancouver Coastal Health region, 7,863 in the Fraser Health region, 253 in the Island Health region, 727 in the Interior Health region, 399 in the Northern Health region and 88 cases of people who reside outside of Canada.

"There have been two new COVID-19 related deaths, for a total of 261 deaths in British Columbia. We offer our condolences to everyone who has lost their loved ones during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"There has been one a new health-care facility outbreak at PICS assisting living facility. The outbreak sat Al Hogg Pavilion and at Delta Hospital have been declared over. In total, 21 long-term care or assisted-living facilities and one acute-care facilities have active outbreaks.

"There has been one new community outbreak at the Okanagan Men's Centre. 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.

"Our COVID-19 safety efforts start at home, and recently, we have seen a number of new cases and clusters directly connected to social events in private homes. That is why there is now a Provincial Health Officer order in place restricting the number of people who can safely be in our homes.

"The new order is about ensuring what happens in our homes is in step with what we are doing elsewhere. Just as we need to keep our groups to no more than six when we go to restaurants, so we need to also keep our groups small at home.

"We can still spend time with our friends and family, but, right now, we must all keep to our 'safe six' only, or take our events outside, where it is far easier to maintain a safe physical distance.

“Let’s save the parties for when it is safe for everyone to celebrate. If you are planning a wedding in your home, then make it your immediate family only. If you are organizing a birthday party for your children, then only invite those friends from your close social circle.

“Unlike our schools and workplaces, most homes do not have space for everyone to keep a safe distance from others, nor do our homes have the layers of protection – the physical barriers, one-way pathways and the use of masks – that are part of school and work COVID-19 safety plans.

“Now is the time for us to take step back from our in-person social events and gatherings, and rather connect virtually instead. This will help to protect our loved ones, our Elders and our communities as we move forward.”

### **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 October 5 modelling presentation, visit:  
[https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/COVID19\\_Going\\_Forward\\_Oct\\_2020.pdf](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](http://www.bouncebackbc.ca)  
Or: [www.anxietycanada.com](http://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](http://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](http://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/](https://www.facebook.com/BCProvincialGovernment/)

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

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/ProvinceofBC](https://www.youtube.com/ProvinceofBC)

**Media contact:** Ministry of Health Communications  
250 952-1887 (media line)

One backgrounder follows.

# BACKGROUND

**Assisted living, long-term care homes and seniors' rental buildings with ongoing COVID-19 outbreaks are as follows:**

## 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

## Fraser Health

- Agassiz Seniors Community
- Amenida Seniors Community
- 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 assisting living facility
- Laurel Place long-term care facility
- Peace Portal Seniors Village long-term care facility
- PICS assisted living facility
- Queen's Park Care Centre
- 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