

COVID-19 Regional Update – November 20, 2020

Good evening,

I wanted to send along another quick COVID-19 update as the BC Centre for Disease Control Health Service Delivery Area updated statistics were released last night (I tried to wait to include them with the update yesterday, but they posted too late). There was also a federal news conference today, as the new national modelling was released and the US border closure was extended.

East Kootenay Stats:

- In the East Kootenay Health Service Delivery Area, there have been **22 positive cases in the past 14 days (November 6-19)**. By comparison, there were 7 between October 30 and November 12.
- There have been 68 positive cases in the East Kootenay since January 1.
- The more specific break down of the East Kootenay numbers is published monthly. The next update will be mid-December.

BC Update - For The Past 24 Hours:

- There have been 516 new cases in the past 24 hours (for a total of 25,474 cases in BC since January). Of those, 148 new cases are in Vancouver Coastal Health region, 294 in Fraser Health region, 17 in Island Health, 31 in the Interior Health, and 25 in Northern Health.
- There are 7,122 active cases in the province.
- There are 227 people hospitalized with COVID-19, 57 of whom are in intensive care.
- 10,002 people are under active public health monitoring as a result of identified exposure to known cases.
- 17,477 people who tested positive have recovered.
- There have been 10 deaths in the past 24 hours, for a total of 331 in BC
- There are currently 235 active cases in Interior Health. 1 person is in intensive care. 965 people in IH have recovered.
- There have been 3 new health-care facility outbreaks and no new community outbreaks since yesterday.
- Link to today's Joint Statement: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0061-001954>
- Link to the provincial COVID-19 dashboard: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/a6f23959a8b14bfa989e3cda29297ded>

Federal Update:

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- The Canada-US border closure has been extended to at least December 21st.
- Prime Minister Trudeau has issued a plea to all Canadians to tighten things up once again and do everything we can to stop the spread of COVID-19. This includes: reducing the number of people each of us come into contact with; avoiding all group gatherings; and, avoiding all non-essential travel. Employers are asked to make arrangements for employees to work from home; and, Canadians are being asked to stay home and stay local.
- While the federal government is asking people not to go out if they don't have to, and is stressing there should be no non-essential travel, there are no plans at this time to enact the Federal Emergencies Act to shut down provincial borders.
- Last night, the federal government's COVID 19 support bill was passed into law and included some new measures. One of them is a new rent subsidy for small business tenants (not landlords) which could provide up to 90% rent subsidies depending on their business type and impacts. There will be more information available when applications open on Monday.
- The national wage subsidy has been continued until June 2021.
- To learn more about business, economic and social supports available, visit: www.canada.ca/coronavirus.

Federal Modeling:

- **New national modelling was released today for Canada** – Dr. Tam stressed that there is urgency to curb infections as we are seeing huge spikes of positive cases and record number of hospitalizations across the country.
- As of 7pm EDT last night, there are 52,193 active cases in Canada, and 252,293 of the 315,751 people who've tested positive since January have recovered. There have been 11,265 COVID-related deaths.
- Canada could see 20,000 new cases daily by end of December if we don't limit or reduce our contacts now. The modelling shows that the worst-case scenario is projecting Canada could see up to 60,000 cases a day.
- There is rapid growth in BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec. In addition, more regions across the country are reporting higher infection rates and there are more and larger outbreaks affecting long term care homes and health care settings.
- Several indigenous communities across Canada are seeing rapidly rising case numbers. The majority of the increases continue to be linked to private and public gatherings in settings where physical distancing and wearing of masks were not observed. Today, over \$120 million in immediate funding was announced to support the response to the pandemic in Indigenous communities and organizations in Alberta and Saskatchewan. This funding will support Indigenous communities and organizations in their on the ground efforts to put in place measures and address increasing needs, including support for vulnerable populations, support for long-term care homes, deploying additional staff in communities with outbreaks, strengthening mental health services and additional isolation and screening spaces where needed.



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- To view Dr. Tam's slides on the latest federal modelling:
<https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/diseases-maladies/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/epidemiological-economic-research-data/update-covid-19-canada-epidemiology-modelling-20201120-eng.pdf>

Have a good, safe weekend everyone!

Take care of you and yours.

Loree