

July 14, 2020

COVID-19 Update #7

Since the last MHO newsletter, information on COVID-19 has grown immensely. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your contributions in responding to COVID-19 in our region, to provide a situational assessment, and to summarize some key COVID-19 resources.

Situational assessment:

- COVID-19 cases continue to occur within Island Health, albeit at a lower rate than during the spring. Prior to June 1 there were 131 cases reported; four lab-confirmed cases have been identified since.
- Indications for testing have expanded. Up-to-date testing criteria are found on the BCCDC website at bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/covid-19-care/covid-19-testing/viral-testing.
- Since June 1, more than 10,000 tests have been performed, with a percent positivity of 0.04%.
- COVID-19 cases are contacted immediately by one of Island Health's 3 Communicable Disease Hubs upon notification of a positive test result, and contacts are typically traced and managed within 24 hours. Cases and contacts receive daily follow-up until they have successfully completed required periods of isolation.
- The majority of cases (~90%) within Island Health have been linked to either:
 - international travel
 - contact with another confirmed case or cluster (usually within households or workplaces)
- The pandemic appears to be generally under control across Canada, although a recent increase of cases in BC and isolated outbreaks is a reminder that COVID-19 is an ongoing threat. It is concerning that record daily case counts are being reached globally including in the US.

Resources:

- One-stop-shop for medical staff at medicalstaff.islandhealth.ca/covid-19. Includes links to guidelines, resources, and communications, including regular updates from the Chief MHO at medicalstaff.islandhealth.ca/coronavirus-covid-19-updates-island-health-medical-staff-memos
- **Surveillance:**
 - **Island Health:** islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/covid-19/information-general-public: by Health Service Delivery Area and exposure history, updated when a new case is reported
 - **BCCDC:** bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data: all of BC and by Health Authority, updated every weekday
 - **Alerts:** islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/covid-19/outbreaks-and-exposures: lists outbreaks and exposures of COVID-19 within Island Health (currently none)

Moving forward:

- MHO newsletters will be provided monthly.
- As always, if there is evidence of community transmission of COVID-19, the MHO for that region will notify physicians.

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