

Subject: COVID-19 Updates - August 18th, 2020
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BC records highest ever daily case numbers

New cases of Covid-19 have been climbing the past couple of weeks, with a record 100 new cases identified this past Saturday. Deputy Provincial Health Officer Dr. Reka Gustafson, filling in for Dr. Bonnie Henry, provided Monday's update and repeated Dr. Henry's message from last week urging people to keep social gatherings to small numbers of close contacts. The majority of new cases over the weekend were among people under the age of 40, a trend that has been on the rise recently. While younger people are generally at lower risk of serious complications from Covid-19, they are by no means immune and can still pass the virus along to others who are more vulnerable. BC's health minister Adrian Dix reinforced Dr. Gustafson's call to all British Columbians, especially younger people, to keep our social gatherings small and to keep up with the measures that we know are effective at minimizing the spread of Covid-19:

- Maintain safe distancing
- Wash your hands
- Stay home if you are sick

Rapid identification of new cases and contact tracing of anyone who may have been exposed to someone with Covid-19 are a critical piece of BC's Covid-19 response. The BC Centre for Disease Control maintains a list of all outbreaks and exposure events across the province. Dr. Gustafson encouraged people to check out this list and to follow up if they were at any of locations or events listed. Also included on this site is a list of international and domestic flights that have had identified exposures among travelers.

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/public-exposures>



Understanding the COVID-19 one-time payment for people with disabilities

The Canadian Association for Community Living created this FAQ sheet on the federal one-time payment for people with disabilities.

"On July 17, 2020 the Government of Canada announced a one-time \$600 payment for people with disabilities. The payment is meant to help with the extra costs people with

disabilities are facing during the COVID-19 pandemic. The payment is expected to be sent to people sometime this Fall, but no specific date has been announced.”

Click the link to view the complete document: <https://cacl.ca/2020/08/05/understanding-the-covid-19-one-time-payment-for-people-with-disabilities/>



\$300 supplement for PWD extended four more months

Yesterday the Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, Shane Simpson, announced that the Province will be extending the \$300 supplement for people who receive PWD benefits and income assistance in BC for four more months. Here is more on the announcement:

<https://bc.ctvnews.ca/emergency-support-extended-for-b-c-s-most-vulnerable-amid-pandemic-1.5067574>



Pandemic Pay Update

Also yesterday, we had a brief update on BC's Temporary Pandemic Pay program. The government provided information for service providers on how to claim funds to distribute to eligible employees. An online template and claim form will be available mid-September, and once the claims are validated the funding will be provided to service providers to distribute to employees. The priority is to have a quick turnaround time and streamlined process so funds can be distributed to employees as soon as possible.

Thank you everyone for your continued dedication to the people we support.

Naomi Holmes
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