

**Subject:** COVID-19 Updates - July 21, 2020  
**Date:** Tuesday, July 21, 2020 at 2:49:15 PM Pacific Daylight Time  
**From:** Ernie Baatz  
**To:** Ernie Baatz  
**Attachments:** image001.png, image002.png

## COVID-19 Updates from the BC Government

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 are providing case updates for three 24-hour reporting periods. In the first reporting period from July 17 to July 18, we had 51 new cases. From July 18 to July 19, we had 19 new cases, and in the last 24 hours, we have had a further 32 new cases.

"This represents 102 new cases, including four epi-linked cases since we reported on Friday, for a total of 3,300 cases in British Columbia.

"There are 253 active cases of COVID-19 in the province and 2,858 people who tested positive have recovered.

"Of the total COVID-19 cases, 16 individuals are hospitalized, four of whom are in intensive care. The remaining people with COVID-19 are recovering at home in self-isolation."

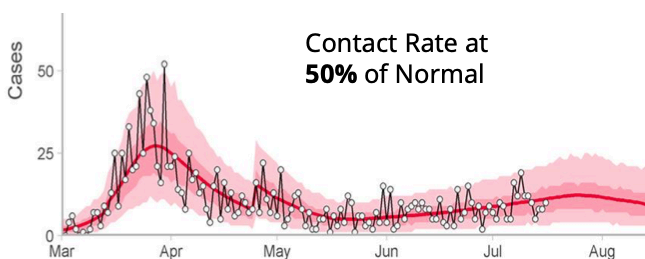
July 20th 2020 Modeling Update from Dr. Henry – [COVID-19 Going Forward](#)

Scenarios that outline the curves possible depending on how well we limit our contacts:

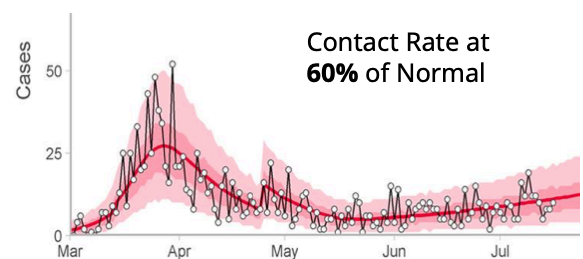
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### Dynamic Compartmental Modelling: Scenarios

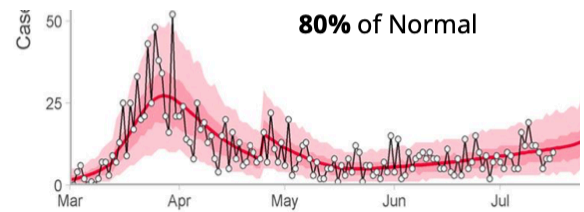
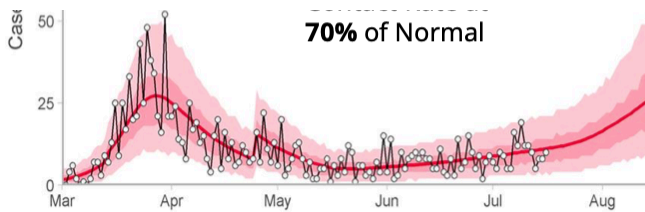
Scenarios from our model illustrate the importance of reducing infectious contacts and of reducing risk by means (e.g., masking, hand hygiene). Poorer compliance with this advice could lead to a rebound in new



Contact Rate at



Contact Rate at



## COVID-19 IN BC

“The epidemiological data also shows some concerning upward trends: The infection rate for new cases is increasing above one to one, and we are also seeing an uptick in our case curve. This tells us that we are on edge of increasing our social interactions too much and are at risk of a rebound.

“We need to bend our curve back down to where it belongs.

“Public health teams have been very effective in containing the spread. **We also need to do our part** and be the voice with our friends and family to remind everyone about the steps to take to keep each other safe.

“We are asking everyone to use your connections and influence, whether on social media or in-person, to share the message to socialize safely.

“By playing safe and staying safe, let’s make sure COVID-19 doesn’t spoil our summer.

“There are a few things we can all do to push that curve back down. **Keep your groups small and only spend time with those you know.** The more people you see, the more likely someone will have COVID-19 and will spread it to others.

“If you are going out, be considerate of people who are working at the restaurants and pubs that you are visiting. Remember servers are at higher risk because of the many people they see, so **be kind and show gratitude** as they follow the WorkSafeBC requirements for safe operations. **Ensure your groups are no larger than six people, avoid table-hopping and stay home if you are feeling unwell.**

“If you are hosting a small gathering, remember **‘fewer faces and bigger spaces.’** Keep your gatherings small, know everyone who is coming, stay outside as much as possible and have a designated ‘contact keeper’ so you are able to quickly alert everyone afterward, if necessary.

“We all have a role to play in keeping our curve flat. Let’s continue to work together and do all we can to keep ourselves and each other safe. Let’s protect our communities, our Elders and our loved ones by standing united against COVID-19.”

## Support for Our Essential Workers

**Pandemic Pay:** The Provincial Government announced a special premium of \$4 / hour for front line workers in community social services for sixteen weeks from March 15, 2020 to July 4, 2020. The government will have a requisition process for us to complete to get this funding for our employees and once we have received this funding, we will be paying it to our employees as a lump sum. The government has not announced this requisition process yet though, so we don't know how quickly this process can be completed and payments processed to our employees. We will keep you informed.

**Emergency Funding for Home Share Contractors:** The Provincial Government approved \$35 Million for CLBC to use to supplement existing services due to the pandemic. Home Share Contractors have received monthly supplements for April, May and June, and CLBC recently announced an extension of this program for July and August 2020.

**Recruitment and Retention Funding for Non-Union Agencies:** The Provincial government just announced increases for non-union agencies to address serious recruitment and retention issues that face non-union agencies because government funded big increases for unionized positions and did not provide the same increases for non-union staff. The new funding allows us to provide an average 3.5% additional increase, effective April 2020. There will be a new pay grid effective from July 9, 2020 and employees will get retroactive pay back to April 2020.

### Equal Work Equal Pay BC – We need your Support!



Send your  
letter now!



Visit [www.equalpaybc.ca](http://www.equalpaybc.ca) to send a letter of support to your MLA.

Yes, the government provided the 3.5% increase for recruitment and retention to non-union agencies for April 2020, but this does not address the ongoing issue of **equal pay for equal work** in the community social services sector. There was a 3.35% increase in April 2019 that our non-union employees did not get. There is another increase scheduled for April 2021 that government has not committed to funding for non-union employees. Please go to the [www.equalpaybc.ca](http://www.equalpaybc.ca) website, click on the **Send Your Letter** link, and send a letter as an employee, or as a supporter (family, friends, self-advocates, neighbours!).

- Enter your address first, and your MLA will be selected from the data base.
- You can click PREVIEW to see how the letter will look
- Click "I accept the Privacy Policy"

- Click “SEND LETTER”

There have already been over 200 letters submitted since our launch yesterday, so please support our front line workers and send a letter!

Let me know if you have any questions.

**Ernie Baatz**

Executive Director

Spectrum Society for Community Living

Express yourself. Build your network. Find your voice.

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**Be Calm, Be Kind, Be Safe**