

**Subject:** COVID-19 Updates - June 24 2020  
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## COVID-19: Going Forward June 23 2020

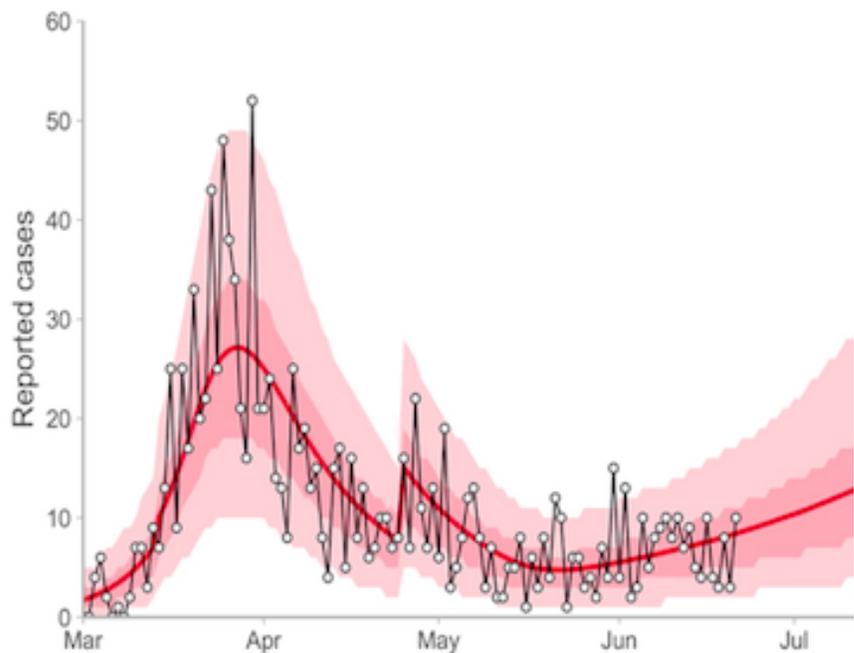
Yesterday, Dr. Bonnie Henry presented information on how people in BC are doing with keeping everyone safe and healthy. The full presentation is here: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/2020-06-23-Modelling-Technical-Briefing.pdf>

She emphasized a number of key points:

1. **There are still people getting sick every day from Corona virus.** Between 10 and 13 people every day test positive for COVID-19 and some of those people end up in hospital with serious illness. We must continue to keep physically distant from people who are not in our family bubble.
2. Our contacts with people are increasing and concerning. It is estimated that the average is now 65% of the pre-pandemic normal, in terms of the number of people we are interacting directly with.

### Dynamic Compartmental Modelling: Projections

- Our model suggests a slight increase in new cases during June and the possibility of continued growth in new cases during the summer.
- Recent contact rates are estimated to be at roughly 65% of normal.



Solid line: mean; shaded bands: 50% and 90% credible intervals;  
Open circles: reported cases. Cases used for model fitting exclude those attributed to outbreak clusters.

3. There is a significant risk of a rebound in the number of cases of people getting sick if we do not reduce our interactions and increase our participation the safety practices that have been taught over the past three months:
  - a. Keep your physical distance
  - b. Wash your hands
  - c. Stay Home if you are sick

Today, the Premier announced that the Province would be moving to Phase 3 which includes the

following additional activities:

**PHASE 3 (JUNE-SEPTEMBER, IF TRANSMISSION RATE REMAINS LOW OR IN DECLINE)  
UNDER ENHANCED PROTOCOLS**

- Hotels and resorts (June)
- Parks – broader reopening, including some overnight camping (June)
- Film industry – beginning with domestic productions (June/July)
- Select entertainment – movies and symphony, but not large concerts (July)
- Post-secondary education – with mix of online and in-class (September)
- K-12 education – partial return in June, full return in September

Please get out and enjoy the summer weather, but stay vigilant and keep yourself, your family and the people you work with safe and healthy.

More on Phase 3 and the Restart Plan here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/bc-restart-plan#move-phases>

## **COVID-19, Canadians with disabilities, and the need for major reforms**

**Michael Prince** / June 23, 2020

Going forward, it is time the federal government be responsible for providing an adequate income security program for Canadians with disabilities, while enabling the provinces to invest in an affordable and safe supply of personal supports and care services. As a society, we've determined that seniors and children aren't expected or required to participate in the labour market, paving the pathway for federal programs like the [Canada Child Benefit](#) and the [Canada Pension Plan](#). In a post-COVID-19 future, individuals with severe disabilities should be part of this group.

Provincial governments have demonstrated a serious lack of leadership in providing financial aid to people with disabilities during the pandemic. Only three provinces have offered COVID-related income support to people on social assistance. In most provinces, people on social assistance who receive the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) will no longer be eligible for social assistance. And, contrary to the stated wishes of the federal government, most provinces are partially or fully clawing back CERB received by individuals on social assistance. This means these vulnerable, low-income Canadians are not getting [the full support intended](#). Just one province, Ontario, which is applying a partial clawback, has said it will reinvest the funds into social assistance to further help those who need to access income support.

Four months into the pandemic, the federal government, announced plans for a one-time, tax-free payment, up to \$600 payment for people who are registered for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC), a non-refundable federal tax measure for those with severe disabilities. The necessary legislation for this measure [did not pass](#), so this

benefit is [not immediately forthcoming](#).

[Read more of this article here...](#)

As we have learned during this pandemic with long term care facilities, there is a central role by provincial and territorial governments in ensuring the availability of affordable, quality and accessible services and supports for people with disabilities in their everyday lives. And there is a principal role for the federal government in the provision of income security to people with disabilities through direct transfers to individuals and families.

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