

Subject: COVID-19 Update - March 27 2020

Date: Friday, March 27, 2020 at 4:50:18 PM Pacific Daylight Time

From: Ernie Baatz

To: Ernie Baatz

Good Afternoon;

Here is the daily press release from the BC Government: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2020HLTH0113-000581> .
Key message:

“In the past few days, our upward path has been less severe than other places, but we continue to see steady increases in community transmission cases and continue to be concerned about outbreaks, which could quickly grow and challenge our pandemic response.

“The evidence is clear: with every person in British Columbia 100% committed to physical distancing, we can flatten the curve. Over the next two weeks we must be united in this one goal.

“We strongly discourage any in-person gathering of any size at this time, but rather encourage using the many online options we have available today to stay connected to friends, family, customers and clients.

As well, earlier in the day, the Provincial Health Officer did a technical briefing on COVID-19 Modelling: https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/COVID19_TechnicalBriefing_Mar27_2020.pdf

- This presentation provides a range of modelling scenarios for the purpose of estimating and then planning for critical care needs and non-critical acute care needs for managing COVID-19 cases in B.C.

And even earlier in the morning, the Federal Government announced an updated range of supports to support employment and the economy across Canada. There were bold announcements but the details of how these new programs work will not be announced until next week:

https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan/covid19-businesses.html#wage_subsidies

Masks

Everyone is having challenges getting enough Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to provide care when people are sick. Our commitment to safety is to following the personal care directions of medical professionals when we are caring for people with infectious diseases, and providing staff with the proper equipment in those situations. But we do not have enough masks to provide them to everyone who believes they would feel safer wearing a mask at work and in public. Judy is continuing to search suppliers for additional masks that could meet this need and we have orders in the pipeline, but they have been delayed a number of times.

One option is to sew your own masks. These will not have the same protective qualities as a surgical mask or an N-95 mask, but they will provide you with some protection from the casual contact you may have with the virus in the community and on commonly touched surfaces.

A news article about home-made masks discusses these fabric masks:

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/volunteers-are-sewing-homemade-face-masks-but-are-they-effective-1.4865858>

Two instructional videos:

Deaconess Health: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9tBg0Os5FWQ&feature=emb_logo

Sew It Online: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DqImDf6_hsY&feature=emb_logo

Remember, the most important ways to keep yourself and others safe from this virus are:

1. Physical distance – keep 2 metres (6 feet) from other people in public.
2. Wash your hands. The virus will most likely infect you when you touch something, and then touch your mouth, nose or eyes.
3. Sneeze into a kleenex or your elbow. Then dispose of Kleenex and wash your hands.
4. Stay home if you feel sick.

So if anyone is a seamstress, we have a number of teams that would appreciate the additional protection they would get from having a mask to wear on their way to work.

Have a quiet weekend! Keep in touch with family and friends.

Ernie Baatz

Executive Director

Spectrum Society for Community Living

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cell: 604-644-1474