

Subject: COVID-19 Updates - October 6, 2020 - Safer Celebrations
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Safer Celebrations

Dr. Bonnie Henry and the Centre for Disease Control (BC CDC) have a list of ways to celebrate safely over the next three months.

As the days get shorter, many of us look forward to fall holidays and festivities. With COVID-19 still a concern across the province, here are some things you can consider to help make celebrations safer for everyone.

Keep in mind that the more space you have and the less time you spend with others, the safer you are when getting together.

If you are hosting:

Gatherings outside and inside

- Keep gatherings small, local and within your social group this year.
- Celebrate outside when you can.
 - Bundle up for picnics or a late season BBQ.
 - Considering visiting a heated, outdoor patio.
 - Be mindful of safety around outdoor heaters and open fires, particularly if children are involved.
- If you plan for an indoor visit with people outside of your household, here are a few things you can do to make your time inside together safer.
 - Keep your gathering small, try limit your gathering to your “stick to six” social group.
 - Check-in with guests before they arrive to make sure that they are feeling well and don’t have symptoms or recent contact with a confirmed case.
 - Visit in larger rooms where there is more space for people to sit or stand farther apart.
 - Choose well-ventilated spaces (spaces where there is lots of fresh air) and open windows if you can.
 - Limit your time indoors together (the less time you spend in a confined space

together, the better). For example, consider offering “just dessert” rather than a long meal.

- Consider the impacts that alcohol and substance use can have on maintaining physical distancing.
- If you need to pass someone in a tight space (like a hallway or on stairs) try to pass them quickly or wait until they are gone before you enter hallways or stairs.
- Encourage non-contact greetings such as elbow bumps or waves to reduce physical contact.
- Keep music low to reduce the need for loud talking or shouting.
- Make sure you have a place for guests to wash their hands.

If you are attending:

Here are some tips to keep in mind when attending celebrations:

- Respect physical distancing efforts.
- Practice good hand hygiene, wash your hands often or bring hand sanitizer.
- Bring your own food and drink.
- Use good respiratory etiquette and wear your mask when asked.
- If you need to pass someone in a tight space (like a hallway or on stairs) try to pass them quickly or wait until they are gone before you enter hallways or stairs.
- Bundle up for picnics or a late season BBQ.
- Be mindful of safety around outdoor heaters and open fires, particularly if children are involved.

How to Celebrate Halloween Safely

Celebrate less socially and trick-or-treat locally this Halloween!

Skip Halloween parties this year

1. Leave the parties behind.
 - Indoor gatherings, big or small, put people at higher risk of getting COVID-19.
 - Celebrate with your favourite Halloween movie or other traditions that you can do with your household or social group.

2. If you host or attend a small party, keep it within your social group (Stick to six).
 - You should know everyone who attends, no plus ones.
 - Follow our guidelines for [safer celebrations](#).
 - Don't pass around snacks, drinks, smokes, tokes, and vapes
 - Be more outside, than inside. Keep your space well-ventilated with windows open.
 - Avoid using props that can cause coughing, such as smoke machines.
 - Be careful with hand sanitizer and open flames - hand sanitizer is very flammable!

Get creative handing out treats

1. Get creative!
 - Use tongs, a baking sheet or make a candy slide to give more space when handing out candy.
 - Plan to hand out individual treats instead of offering a shared bowl.
 - Only hand out sealed, pre-packaged treats.
2. Wear a non-medical mask that covers your nose and mouth when handing out treats.
3. Be more outside, than inside.
 - If you can, stand outside your door to hand out treats. Then kids won't need to touch the door or doorbell.
 - If you're unable to sit outside to hand out treats, [clean and disinfect](#) doorbells and knobs, handrails, and any other high touch surface often during the evening
4. If you are decorating, avoid props that can cause coughing, such as smoke machines.
5. Stick to the treats – not tricks.

[More on the BC CDC Website](#)

CLBC Teleconference For Service Providers – September 29, 2020

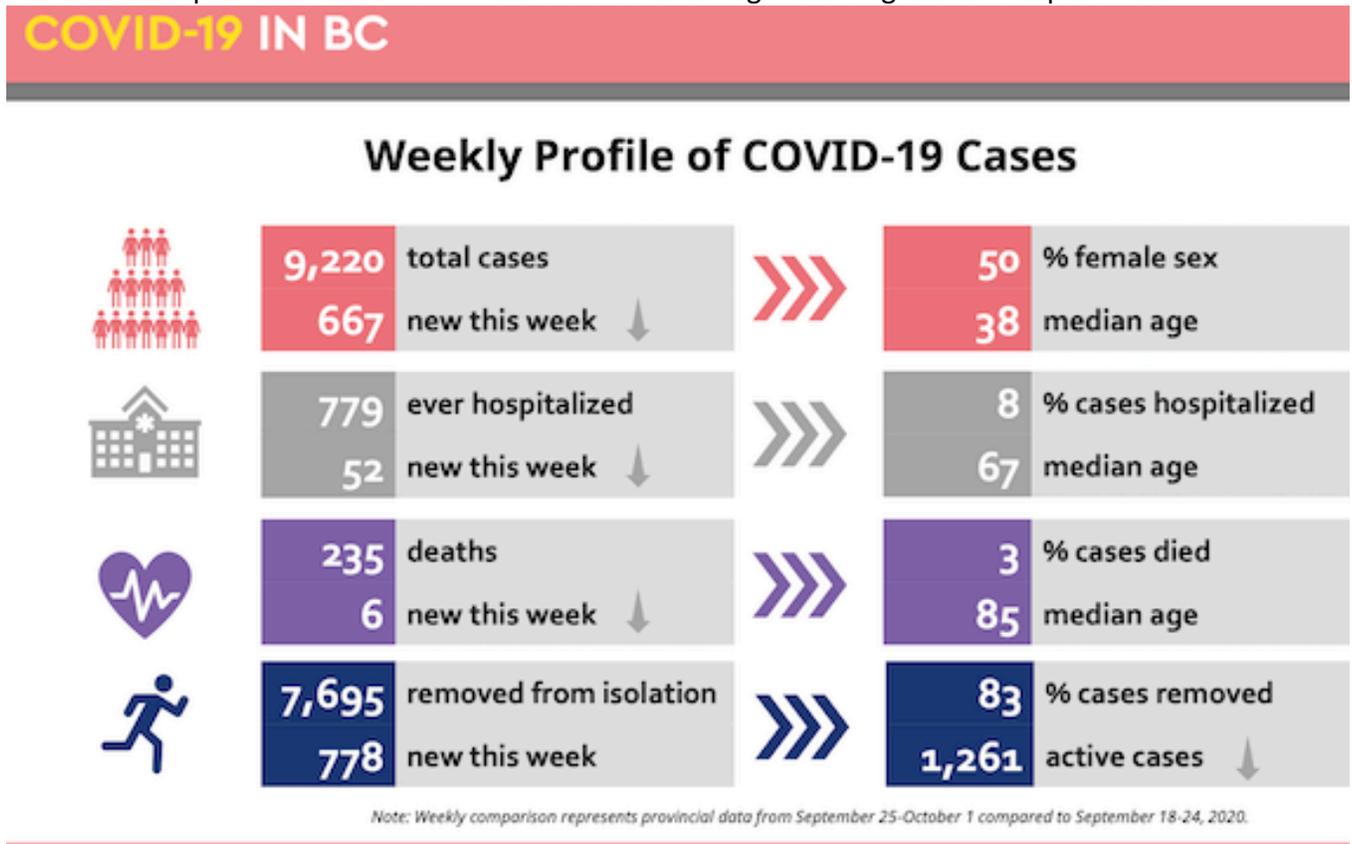
The recording of the September 29th, 2020 teleconference is on the [CLBC website now](#). Presenters were Dr. Behn-Smith and CEO Ross Chilton. They talked about preparing for the Fall, how we know so much more now and can be better prepared, and how we need to take care of ourselves as well as each other. The doctor used the analogy of the airplane instruction for oxygen masks – parents are instructed to put their own mask on first, then help their children. We all need to take care of our own health so that we are able to take care of others when they need our support.

Dr. Behn Smith also reminded us of the three priorities for all these actions of the Provincial Health Office:

1. Protect our most vulnerable citizens
2. Protect our health care system from being overwhelmed
3. Mitigate the harms caused by the measures taken to meet priorities 1 and 2.

COVID-19 FALL UPDATE – October 5, 2020

At Monday's update, Dr. Bonnie Henry reviewed her [epidemiological data with a slide show of graphs](#). There are graphs comparing BC with the rest of Canada, information on schools re-opening, and cautiously optimistic information on the testing, cases and hospitalizations over the past two weeks. We seem to have flattened the curve again, but we need to keep our distance, wash our hands and keep our bubbles small. Here is a slide showing the changes over the past week:



[More Data here in her Fall Update presentation.](#)

Services for at-risk voters and voters with disabilities

Voters who are at-risk may be worried about voting in person. Elections BC is committed to a safe and accessible election for all voters, and we have services available to help, whether you are voting in person or remotely. Election officials are trained on how to help voters access voting opportunities, and services are available to help voters with disabilities or underlying health conditions to vote.

Vote by mail

Voting by mail is a great option for voters who have health concerns or who are not comfortable voting in person because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information, visit our [How to Vote by Mail](#) page.

Assisted telephone voting

Telephone voting is available for a limited set of voters who are unable to vote independently by other means. To vote by assisted telephone voting, **your voter registration information must be [up-to-date](#)** and you must meet one of the following criteria:

- you have vision loss

- you have a disability or underlying health condition that prevents you from voting independently

- you are self-isolating during the last week of the campaign period and are unable to vote by mail

District Electoral Officers may also make this option available to some residents of care facilities, patients of acute care hospitals or deployed members of the military.

Only voters who meet one of these criteria are allowed to vote by telephone and voters must confirm that they are eligible. If an ineligible voter attempts to vote by telephone, it could tie up phone lines needed by those who are eligible.

Telephone operators will assist voters who vote by phone. Measures have been put in place to ensure the secrecy of the ballot for voters voting by telephone.

If you have questions about your eligibility to vote by assisted telephone voting, contact us at 1-800-661-8683.

Getting help marking your ballot

Voters can get help marking their ballot if they have a disability or difficulty reading or writing. Tell the election official at the voting place if you need help marking your ballot.

Resources for blind or sight-impaired voters

Braille candidate lists, large print ballot posters and plastic ballot templates are available at all voting places to help blind or sight-impaired voters mark their ballot.

Voting place accessibility

All advance voting places and most general voting places are wheelchair accessible. Voters who can't enter a voting place can vote outside the building (at the curb or in the parking lot).

Translators

Voters can bring a translator to help them at the voting place. The translator must make a solemn declaration that they are able to act as a translator and will do so to the best of their abilities.

Accessible Voting – Elections BC

<https://elections.bc.ca/voting/voting-accessibility/services-for-at-risk-voters/>

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Be Calm, Be Kind, Be Safe