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{The Global Covid-19 Pandemic 2020}

Coronavirus/Covid-19 (BC Centre for Disease Control)

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses found mostly in animals. In humans, they can cause diseases ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS). The disease caused by this new coronavirus has been named COVID-19. While many of the characteristics of COVID-19 are still unknown, mild to severe illness has been reported for confirmed cases.

Symptoms of COVID-19 (from Canada.ca)

Those who are infected with COVID-19 may have little to no symptoms. You may not know you have symptoms of COVID-19 because they are similar to a cold or flu. Symptoms have included: cough, fever, difficulty breathing, pneumonia in both lungs, In severe cases, infection can lead to death.

Symptoms may take up to 14 days to appear after exposure to COVID-19. This is the longest known incubation period for this disease. Recent evidence indicates that the virus can be transmitted to others from someone who is infected but not showing symptoms.

What to do if you get a symptom of COVID-19

Symptoms of COVID-19 include: a new cough or a chronic cough that gets worse, or a fever (greater or equal to 38°C or signs of a fever like shivering, flushed skin, excessive sweating), or difficulty breathing.

If you develop a symptom, stay home and call your health care provider or local public health unit and tell them about your symptoms. Always call ahead before going to see a health provider or health care facility so that they can keep others from being exposed.

The following symptoms should be considered urgent: significant difficulty breathing (e.g., can't catch breath, gasping), chest pain or pressure, new confusion or difficulty

waking up. If you develop these urgent symptoms, call 911 and inform them that you may have COVID-19 and are at high risk for complications.

Preventative Measures:

Stay at home unless you have to go to work, working at home if possible. Avoid all non-essential trips in your community, do not gather in groups, limit contact with people at higher risk. Go outside to exercise but stay close to home, if you leave your home, always keep a distance of at least 2 arms lengths (approximately 2 metres) from others.

Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available. Cough or sneeze into a tissue or the bend of your arm, not your hand dispose of any tissues you have used as soon as possible in a lined waste basket and wash your hands afterwards. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.

Medical masks, including surgical, medical procedure face masks and respirators (like N95 masks), must be kept for health care workers and others providing direct care to COVID-19 patients. Wearing a non-medical mask or face covering is an additional measure you can take to protect others around you, even if you have no symptoms. It can be useful for short periods of time, when physical distancing is not possible in public settings such as when grocery shopping or using public transit

COVID-19

CO stands for Corona

VI stands for Virus

D stands for Disease

19 is for 2019 when it was first identified.

{Timeline of the Global Covid-19 Pandemic 2020}

December 31 Chinese health officials inform the World Health Organization (WHO) about a cluster of 41 patients with a mysterious pneumonia. Most are connected to the Huanan Seafood Market.

January:

1 Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market closes.

7 Chinese authorities identify a new type of corona virus.

11 China records its first death.

13 First coronavirus case outside of China is reported in Thailand.

20 First US case is reported.

23 Wuhan, China is placed under quarantine. Hubei province follows a few days later.

24 First European case reported in France.

25 First case in Canada reported.

28 First case in British Columbia reported in a man who had traveled to Wuhan.

30 WHO declares a global public health emergency.

31 President Trump bans foreign nationals from entering the US if they were in China within the prior two weeks.

February:

2 First death outside of China is recorded in the Philippines.

4 2nd BC case confirmed in a woman who had contact with family visitors from Wuhan City. BC Government advises risk is low. Clean your hands, don't touch face, stay home and away from others if you are sick.

6 3rd BC case. Government requests that people self isolate for 14 days if they traveled to Hubei Province in China or they are in contact with someone who has.

11 WHO announces the new coronavirus disease will be called COVID-19. Global death toll passes 1000.

14 BC 5th Case.

19 BC first case recovered.

21 Italy outbreak begins.

March:

1 Australia reports its first death.

3 BC reports 9th case.

6 Canada's chief public health officer advises Canadians to avoid cruises and to self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days after arriving home from travel.

8 Italy Places all 60 million residents on lockdown, Italians sing together from their balconies.

9 Canada records its first COVID-19 death.

10 Italy's prime minister announced that the lockdown placed on millions in the Lombardy region will be extended to the entire country to curb the virus' spread.

11 WHO declares the outbreak a pandemic with 128,000 confirmed cases worldwide. Canada has 103 cases reported. 46 cases in BC. NBA suspends the remainder of its season after a Utah Jazz player tests positive for COVID-19. U.S. President Donald Trump bans travel to the U.S. from most European countries for 30 days.

12 53 cases in BC. Government recommends no non-essential travel outside of Canada including the US, if you do, then when you return home, you need to stay home for 14 days. All gatherings over 250 people are cancelled. Shutdowns and cancellations stack up — the NHL, MLB, Juno Awards, Ottawa St. Patrick's Day parade, March break camps, and many more. Physical distancing ramps up, Stocks continue falling.

13 Supermarkets see panic buying as people stock up on toilet paper, paper towel, water and lysol wipes. Soon baking supplies like flour and yeast are hard to find.

14 Spain recorded a spike of nearly 2,000 new cases. With more than 3,800 total confirmed cases and at least 84 deaths, the country enacted a partial lockdown restricting people from leaving their homes unless to go to work, the pharmacy or a hospital.

16 BC reports 1st 3 deaths in a Senior care home. There are 103 cases in BC. All hospitals are to undertake only urgent and emergency procedures to ensure resources to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic. There can be no public gatherings in BC over 50 people. Prime Minister Trudeau announces that Canada will close its borders to those who are not Canadian citizens or permanent residents, with the exception of U.S. citizens. Canadian travellers will be able to get financial assistance to help them return home. Starting on March 18, only four airports will receive international flights: Toronto, Vancouver, Calgary and Montreal.

17 Italy reports 475 deaths, the highest single day death toll for any country since the outbreak began. Part of this is due to its elderly population who are more susceptible to the virus. 186 cases in BC. BC declares a Public Health Emergency. Closes all bars,

pubs, clubs. Restaurants and cafes must be able to keep patrons 2 meters apart, or have to offer only take out or delivery.

18 Canadian borders are closed to non-essential travel. Canadian Government announces aid package for people affected by Covid-19. BC province declares State of Emergency. There are 231 cases in BC. Indefinite suspension of in person school classes. Universities move to online education, K-12 is on spring break. Canada's 6 big banks announce they are letting customers defer mortgage payments for 6 months.

20 BC 348 cases. All dine in restaurants prohibited. Must do take out or delivery.

21 Personal service businesses such as hair salons, health spas, physiotherapy etc are ordered to close. Everyone told to stay home as much as possible and to keep a safe distance from others when outside.

23 New York City confirms 21,000 cases, making it the biggest epicenter of the outbreak in the US. BC government states "The gravity of the situation cannot be overstated, and everyone must do all they can to support our efforts to break the chain of transmission and flatten the outbreak curve."

24 Olympics officially postponed until next year.

25 New Zealand Prime Minister announces lockdown for one month. Canadian government legally requires anyone returning to Canada from abroad is required to self quarantine for 14 days. BC has 659 cases.

26 US reaches 82,404 confirmed cases which is the highest in the world, surpassing China's 81,782 and Italy's 80,589. BC has 725 cases.

27 BC government strongly discourages any in-person gatherings of any size at this time. K-12 begins new form of online learning. Bank of Canada cuts key rate to 0.25 percent. Canadian Forces put on war footing.

31 US has the most confirmed cases globally at more than 185,200 with over 3,800 deaths.

April:

1 BC has 1066 cases. 7pm cheer can be heard across the province for health care workers at their shift change to thank them for all of their hard work and give them moral support. This gets louder every night.

2 Canada hits 10,000 confirmed cases. More than 1 million cases confirmed globally. Spain's death toll topped 10,000, only Italy has more deaths at 13,555.

3 All travellers must self-isolate for 14 days.

5 Britain's Queen Elizabeth II gave a rare address to the nation about the coronavirus pandemic, as deaths in the U.K. surpassed 4,300.

6 BC shows early signs of slowing the growth and “flattening the curve” due to social distancing and all of the closures. China reported its first day with no coronavirus deaths since the outbreak began.

8 All returning travellers must have an approved self-isolation plan in place before they can enter the country. Quebec becomes province with most Covid-19 deaths at 175.

9 All BC parks are closed and everyone advised not to travel for the coming Easter weekend. BC has 1370 cases. Canada has 20,000 cases confirmed.

10 Trudeau say it's possible some restrictions will be lifted by the summer.

13 BC 1490 Confirmed cases, 69 deaths, 905 recovered. Canada has 25,663 cases, 780 deaths and 7,734 recovered.

14 BC 1,517 Confirmed Cases, 72 deaths. The number of newly reported cases has decreased since late March. The number of cases in critical care has decreased in the last week.

15 Denmark began reopening schools after a month-long closure, becoming the first country in Europe to do so.

16 Total confirmed cases (deaths) in BC = 1,575 (77)• The number of reported cases today is the lowest it has been since mid-March. The number of cases in hospital and critical care has experienced a similar trend with a plateau starting in early April and a more recent decline.

17 BC no new outbreaks in the last day. 966 people in BC who had tested positive for COVID-19 have recovered and no longer require isolation. Of the total COVID-19 cases, 119 individuals are hospitalized and 52 of those are in intensive care. The remaining people with COVID-19 are recovering at home in self-isolation.

18 Agreement between Canada and the US to close the border to all nonessential travel is extended for another 30 days. Canada has over 32,000 cases including 1,346 deaths. More than 10,000 people have recovered.