

British Columbia COVID-19 Daily Situation report, March 31, 2020

All information is based on direct daily report from health authorities to BCCDC as of 10:00 AM PT, except otherwise noted.
Data are subject to change with reconciliation and/or as data become more complete.

Findings are based on laboratory-confirmed case detections in British Columbia (BC) which represent a subset of actual cases and are subject to changes in testing recommendations and practices.

Figure 1: Map of COVID-19 confirmed cases by health authority, BC, January 1 - March 31, 2020 (N=1,013)

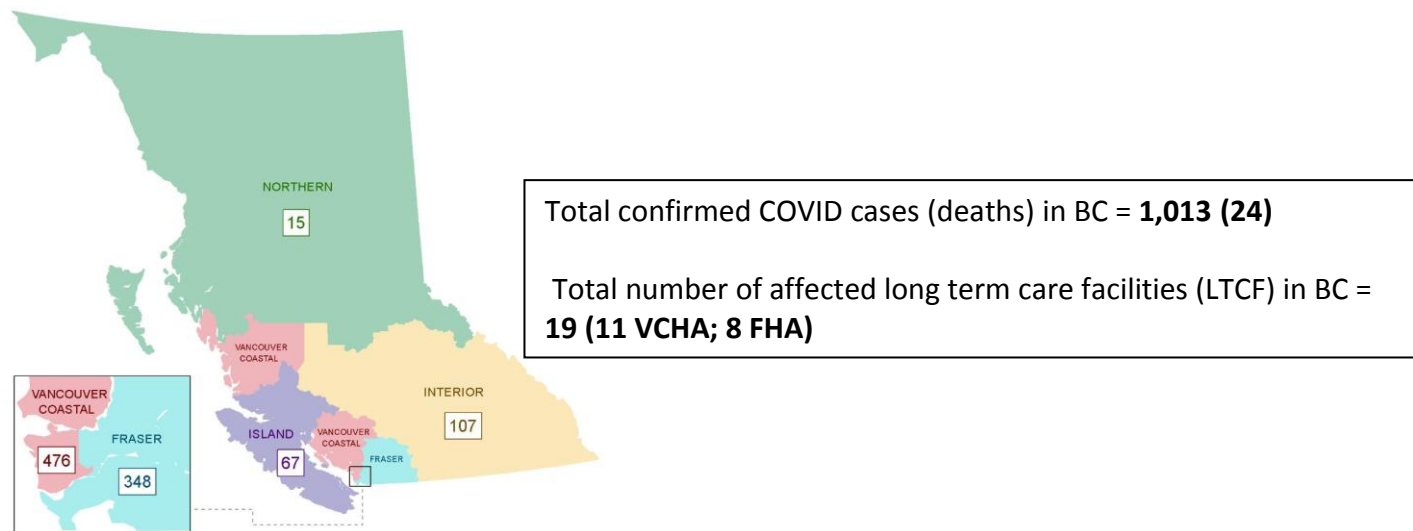


Table 1. Epidemiological profile reported by health authority of case, BC, January 1 - March 31, 2020 (N=1,013)

	Fraser	Interior	Vancouver Island	Northern	Vancouver Coastal	Total N (%) ^a
Total number of cases	348	107	67	15	476	1013
Number of new cases since March 29, 2020	25	13	0	1	4	43 (4%)
Median age in years, cases ^b	51	48	50	53	55	53 years (range 0-102 years)
Female sex, cases	189	59	37 ^c	9	249	543/977 (56%)
Ever hospitalized^d	94	15	9	5	81	204 (20%)
Median age in years, hospitalized ^b	68	56	72	49	68	67 years (range 0-98 years)
Deaths^d	3	0	0	0	21	24 (2%)
Median age in years, deaths ^b	87	NA	NA	NA	85	85 years (range 64-94 years)
Recovered^e	163	22	26	5	291	507 (50%)

^a Denominator for % derivation is total number of cases (N), except sex for which denominator is as specified for those with known information on sex.

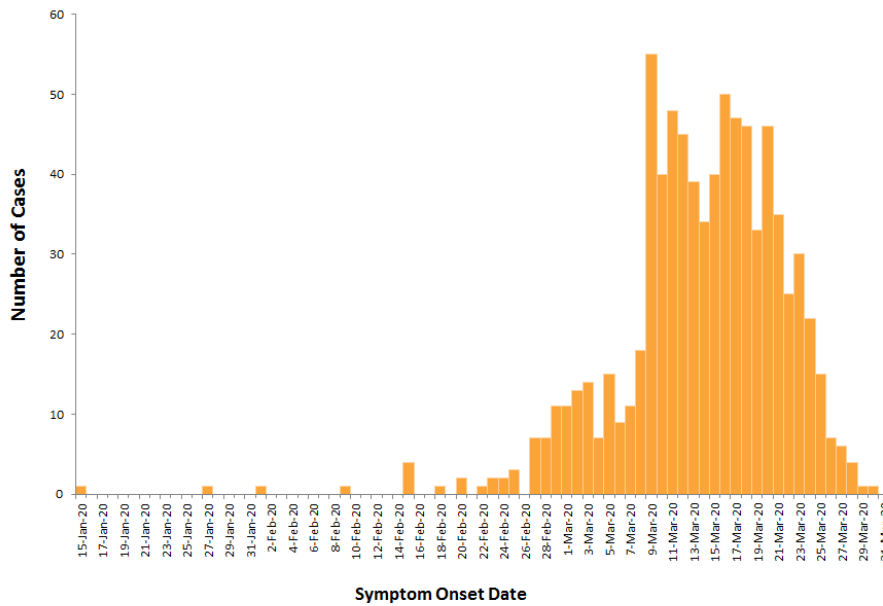
^b Median age is calculated based on those with known information for all, hospitalized, and deceased cases (n=953, 194, and 15, respectively).

^c This is lower than yesterday by 1 due to data entry error.

^d Serious outcomes tallies (e.g. hospitalization, death) may be incomplete or out of date (i.e. under-estimates) owing to the timing and processes for case status update. As of March 30, 2020, the number of COVID cases in critical care units is being reported separately by PHSA.

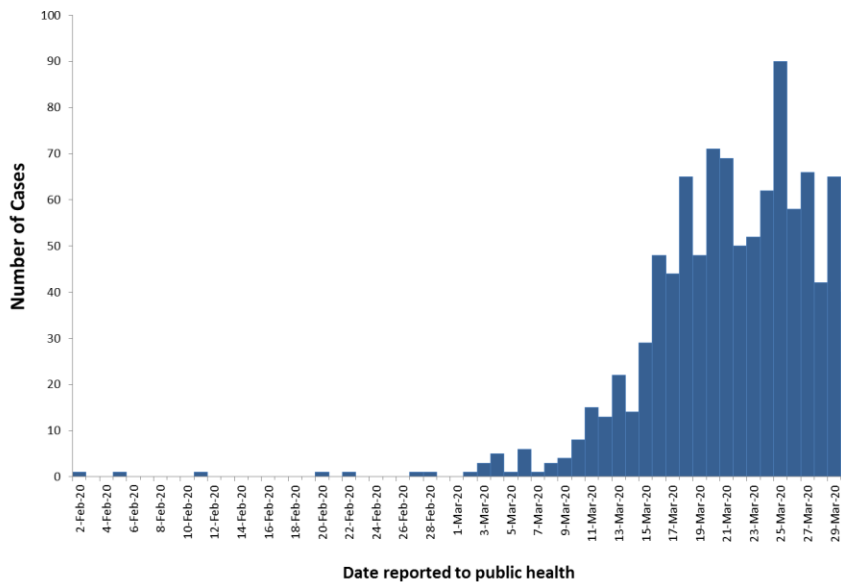
^e Includes both cases indicated as recovered following 2 lab confirmed negative swabs 24 hours apart or removed from isolation requirements 10 days after symptom onset.

Figure 2: Epidemic curve, confirmed COVID-19 cases in BC by symptom onset date January 1-March 31, 2020 (N=811*)



*Only cases with symptom onset date reported are included.

Figure 3: Epidemic curve, confirmed COVID-19 cases in BC by reported date January 1-March 30, 2020 (N=1002*)



*Cases reported on March 31, 2020 have been excluded given they only represent a fraction of the total cases reported on March 31 at the time the data are extracted.

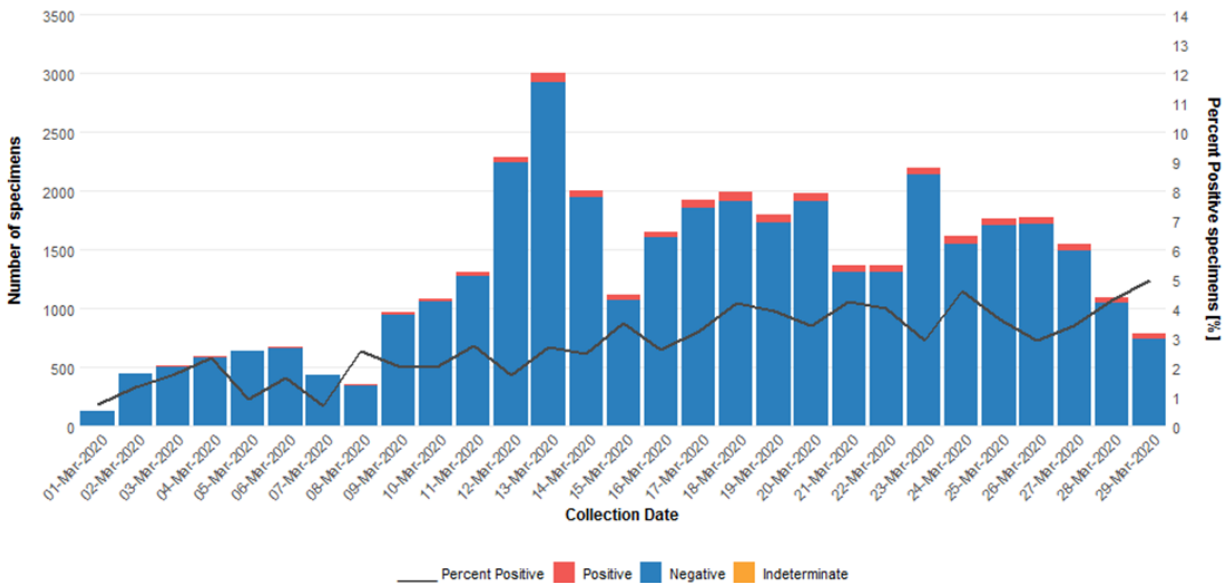
How to interpret the epidemic curves: Figure 2 shows the date that a case’s illness started. Figure 3 shows the date the illness was confirmed and reported by the laboratory. There is a delay between the beginning of a person’s illness (symptom onset date) and the date the laboratory confirms and reports the illness (reported date). New cases have only reported date available and appear on the far right of the curve in Figure 3, but their onset of symptoms would have been prior to this. As information on symptom onset becomes available through public health investigation, cases are expected to appear on earlier dates on the curve in Figure 2.

Table 2. Likely acquisition/exposure of COVID-19 cases in BC, January 1 - March 31, 2020* (N=764)

Exposure type	Health Authority by patient residence					Total (%)
	Fraser	Interior	Vancouver Island	Northern	Vancouver Coastal	
International travel	56	20	14	6	65	161 (21%)
Local acquisition						
Close contact	49	15	19	1	42	126 (16%)
Communal setting (e.g. facility outbreak)	36	8	10	4	47	105 (14%)
Unknown exposure	69	34	9	2	91	205 (27%)
Data pending	4	4	2	2	155	167 (22%)

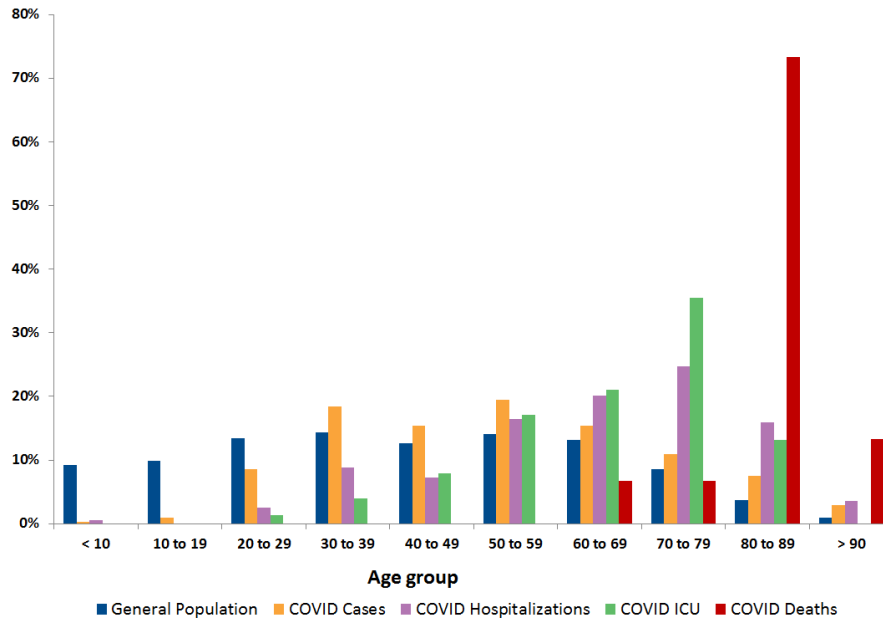
*Data source for this table is different from Table 1. Information in this table is from the public health information system which experiences normal delay of data entry and update.

Figure 4: Proportion of respiratory specimens testing SARS-CoV-2 positive* in BC, March 1-March 29, 2020 (N=38,470)



*Participating laboratories include: BCCDC Public Health Laboratory, Vancouver General Hospital, BC Children’s & Women’s Hospital, St. Paul’s Hospital, Victoria General Hospital Microbiology Laboratory, and Kelowna General Hospital Microbiology Laboratory.
Data source: PLOVER extract at 10:30 on March 31, 2020. Methods and Caveats: SARS-CoV-2 specimens are tallied at the specimen level by date the specimen was collected. The proportion positive on a given date may not represent only new positive cases and this may lead to an over-estimation of proportionate positivity; similarly, individuals may be tested repeatedly after becoming negative and this may lead to an under-estimate of proportionate positivity. The relative impact of these considerations may be greater in the earlier part of the epidemic when repeat testing was more routinely undertaken and there were fewer tests being done overall. As of March 16, testing recommendations have changed to focus on hospitalized patients, healthcare workers, long term care facility staff and residents, or those part of a cluster or outbreak who are experiencing respiratory symptoms.

Figure 5: Percentage distribution of COVID-19 cases, hospitalization, ICU admissions and deaths by age, compared to the general population of BC, January 1-March 31, 2020 (N=953*)



*Includes 953 cases, 194 hospitalizations, 76 ICU admissions, and 15 deceased with age information available.