



Office of Provincial Health Officer Notice

January 29, 2021

Fraser Health has declared COVID-19 outbreaks at Surrey Pretrial Services Centre on January 20, 2021, North Fraser Pretrial Centre on January 22, 2021, and Fraser Regional Correctional Centre on January 27, 2021. Mass testing was conducted at both pretrial centres and the results indicate that there are limited active cases of COVID-19 in two units at Surrey Pretrial Services Centre and one unit at North Fraser Pretrial Centre. It was determined by Fraser Health that there was no need to conduct mass testing at Fraser Regional Correctional Centre, where the positive cases are limited to one living unit. Those affected units are operating with limited movement and the individuals in those units are restricted to those units and are not being transported to attend court appearances.

The protocols in place at the correctional centres have been developed in partnership with the Provincial Health Services Authority, BC Corrections, the BC Government Employees Union, the BC Public Service Agency and WorkSafeBC.

For individuals in non-affected units in the three centres, it has been determined that there is no greater risk of COVID-19 transmission than was the case before the outbreaks, due to the isolation and health and safety protocols in place. Those individuals in unaffected units continue with their normal living routines, including programming and attendance at court, as required.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, no individuals have been transported for in-person court appearances who report that they have COVID-19 symptoms or are observed to be experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or who have tested positive for COVID-19. As an additional precaution, BC Corrections will be supported to implement rapid COVID-19 testing prior to transporting any individual out of these institutions to court until the outbreak at these institutions has been declared over.

BC Corrections' protocols have been effective in mitigating the spread of the virus from the community into the correctional centres since the beginning of the pandemic in March 2020. The recent outbreaks are a reflection of the activity in the broader community and remind us all of the need to adhere to the direction provided by the Provincial Health Officer. For information regarding BC Corrections' court attendance procedures for corrections clients during COVID-19, see BC Corrections' [Procedures for Court Attendance for Individuals in Adult Custody](#).