

CHIEF MAR 14 CORONA

March 14, 2020

The Squamish Chief

The cases

Vancouver Coastal Health, or VCH, which is in charge of the region that includes the Squamish area, has told The Chief that all COVID-19 calls are being directed to the Ministry of Health, but testing is available in Squamish for people who need it.

As of March 16, there have been 103 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in B.C., including 16 linked to the Lynn Valley Care Centre in North Vancouver. Three people have died, all of them residents of the care centre. This brings the total death count in the province to four. Six people are in acute care and five have fully recovered. All others are self-isolating at home.

There are confirmed cases in all of B.C.'s five health authority regions. When asked if any of the cases have been confirmed to be in Squamish, Henry said in a statement to The Chief that anyone at risk of exposure to the virus will be contacted by public health officials.

"We will not be identifying the specific location of confirmed cases unless public health providers cannot be certain they have contacted all those who need to be contacted and who therefore might be a risk to the public," Henry said in an email to The Chief.

The provincial government has also said it will not name the communities where the people with confirmed cases are residents.

"We want people who have symptoms to contact us, and to **feel safe contacting us, knowing their privacy will be protected,** so the steps to protect the health and safety for all can be taken. This is why privacy is important to everyone. It allows public health providers to do the work they need to do to keep everybody safe," Henry said.