

For Immediate Release | February 2, 2021

Interior Health update on COVID-19 cluster in Fernie

FERNIE – Interior Health has identified an additional 7 cases of COVID-19 linked to a community cluster in the Fernie area since the cluster was declared on Jan. 27.

Since Jan. 1, 2021, a total of 98 people have tested positive for COVID-19 in this region and 24 cases are currently active and on isolation.

Most of the transmission occurred at recent social events and gatherings.

Everyone is reminded that socialization must be limited to immediate household bubbles. Please do not invite friends or extended family to your residence for a visit or gathering.

Interior Health is grateful to local physicians and staff, elected officials, businesses and community leaders for their support as we remind everyone to follow precautions and not stigmatize or judge others who seek testing or test positive for COVID-19.

IH will release regular updates on this community cluster on Tuesdays and Fridays and in addition, everyone is encouraged to monitor the [BCCDC website](#) for ongoing COVID-19 data.

Everyone in all communities should remain vigilant in following COVID-19 precautions:

- Keep to your household bubbles and avoid social gatherings.
- Avoid all non-essential travel; stick to your local ski hill and local activities.
- Stay home when you are sick and get tested if you have any symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
- Practise physical distancing and use a mask if you cannot.
- Wash your hands often.

Booking a COVID-19 test:

Testing is available in the Elk Valley by appointment only through the Sparwood Health Centre. Testing is not recommended if you do not have symptoms.

Online: You can book an appointment online through the COVID-19 Test Booking Form:
<https://interiorhealthcovid.secureform.ca/index.php>

By phone: Call the COVID-19 Test Booking Line at 1-877-740-7747 for assistance with booking your test.