

**From:** "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>  
**To:** "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"  
**CC:** "City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL"  
"Reid, Darrell" <Darrell.Reid@vancouver.ca>  
**Date:** 4/22/2020 8:01:21 AM  
**Subject:** FW: News release: COVID-19 outbreak identified at Vancouver food processing plant

Good morning Mayor and Council,

Further to the update you received yesterday regarding the above-referenced COVID outbreak, I have copied below information provided to us by Dr. Mark Lyshysyn, Deputy Medical Health Officer for VCH. As indicated, VCH has not issued any direction or request for action from the City of Vancouver at this time.

Vancouver Coastal Health issued a news release today regarding a COVID-19 outbreak associated with United Poultry at 534 East Cordova St. in Vancouver. The news release was issued because of the large number of cases identified over a short period of time. We wanted to ensure the public had accurate information about the outbreak, not because we had identified any risk to the general population of Vancouver.

United Poultry is meat processing facility regulated by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. Existing sanitation and waste management practices are adequate to address any COVID-related risk that could be transmitted through waste to the surrounding community. VCH advice regarding waste management during the COVID-19 pandemic can be found here:

<http://www.vch.ca/Documents/COVID-19%20Information%20for%20Waste%20Management.pdf> [vch.ca]

Chicken products from this facility are safe to eat and do not need to be recalled. The facility has been closed to prevent further transmission to people working within the facility.

Risk associated with this outbreak is currently limited to people working at the facility and their close contacts. Vancouver Coastal Health is currently following up with all cases and their contacts to inform them of this risk and to determine if there are risks that extend to the broader community.

No specific actions on the part of City of Vancouver related to this outbreak are required at this time.

Please let us know if you have any further questions or concerns. More generally, we have discussed with VCH public health staff the process for notification regarding outbreaks within the City of Vancouver and anticipate we will receive that information in advance of public communications in future. The circumstances in this instance were somewhat exceptional.

Best,  
Paul

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**From:** Johnston, Sadhu  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020 2:53 PM  
**To:** Direct to Mayor and Council - DL  
**Cc:** City Manager's Correspondence Group - DL; Foley, Sonja  
**Subject:** FW: News release: COVID-19 outbreak identified at Vancouver food processing plant

Greetings Mayor and Council  
I thought this would be of interest to you.

📧 share additional information as we get it.

Best  
Sadhu

**Sadhu Aufochs Johnston** | City Manager  
City of Vancouver | 453 W 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver | BC V5Y 1V4  
604.873.7627 | [Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca](mailto:Sadhu.johnston@vancouver.ca)  
Twitter: sadhuajohnston

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**From:** Camm, J.Clive [VCH] [<mailto:Clive.Camm@vch.ca>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020 2:39 PM  
**Subject:** [EXT] News release: COVID-19 outbreak identified at Vancouver food processing plant

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FYI📧

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For Immediate Release | April 21, 2020

## COVID-19 outbreak identified at Vancouver food processing plant

Vancouver, B.C. 📧Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) Public Health has declared an outbreak of COVID-19 among staff working at United Poultry Company Ltd., a chicken processing plant located at 534 East Cordova St., Vancouver.

To date, 28 employees of the facility have tested positive for COVID-19. All employees at the facility are being managed as either COVID-19 cases or close contacts and have been told to self-isolate.

VCH Public Health first became aware of a potential outbreak after receiving a positive lab test on Sunday, April 19, from an employee of the plant. In the course of its investigation, a VCH Public Health team attended the processing plant on Monday, April 20 and tested 71 staff who were physically present, resulting in 27 additional positive cases of COVID-19, which brings the total to 28 cases to date. VCH closed the plant the same day.

According to Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), there is no evidence to suggest that food is a likely source or route of transmission for the virus. At this time, there have been no reported cases of food or food packaging being associated with the transmission of COVID-19. Therefore, no recall of chicken products distributed from this plant is required. All Canadians should continue to follow good hygiene practices during food handling and preparation, such as:

- Washing hands with soap and water
- Regularly cleaning and disinfecting surfaces
- Cooking meat thoroughly
- Avoiding potential cross-contamination between cooked and uncooked foods.

The CFIA delivers ongoing inspections on-site to verify the operator's compliance with the Safe Food for Canadians Act and Regulations. The CFIA also requires that establishments have COVID-19 prevention documentation which clearly articulate mitigation measures and their response to a suspected and confirmed case of COVID-19 to support public health requirements and guidance.

VCH is responsible for the delivery of \$3.6 billion in community, hospital and long-term care to more than one million people in communities including Richmond, Vancouver, the North Shore, Sunshine Coast, Sea to Sky corridor, Powell River, Bella Bella and Bella Coola. VCH also provides specialized care and services for people throughout BC, and is the province's hub of health care education and research.

**CONTACT:**

**Matt Kieltyka**

Public Affairs Specialist  
Vancouver Coastal Health  
Office: 604.708.5338  
Cell: 604.833.4541  
E: [matt.kieltyka@vch.ca](mailto:matt.kieltyka@vch.ca)

I acknowledge my place of work lies within the traditional homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.