



The foundation  
of kidney care.

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

### World Kidney Day observed in communities across BC

*Vancouver, BC* – In communities across British Columbia and in countries around the globe, World Kidney Day – March 10 – is being recognized with special events to raise awareness of kidney disease and the vital role that kidneys play in maintaining our health.

In BC an estimated 200,000 people live with some level of kidney disease. And because there are no early symptoms, most of those people are unaware they have this potentially life-threatening disease.

The kidneys filter blood to remove wastes from the body. If your kidneys were to stop functioning you would need ongoing dialysis or a kidney transplant to survive.

“The events marking World Kidney Day across British Columbia are intended as important reminders for all of us to take action to protect our health, and especially the health of our kidneys,” says Dr. Adeera Levin, executive director of the BC Renal Agency.

For World Kidney Day, the BC Kidney Foundation is partnering with the BC Renal Agency, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority, on a range of public awareness activities throughout the province. Except where noted, all events take place on March 10.

**Abbotsford**

- Abbotsford Regional Hospital Kidney Care Clinic: Blood pressure and blood sugar testing, and information booths with dietitians and social workers
- Abbotsford Community Hemodialysis Unit: Blood pressure and blood sugar testing, and information booths with dietitians and social workers

**Coquitlam**

- Tri-Cities Dialysis Unit: Interactive contests with prizes

**Creston**

- Dialysis Unit: Information booth

**Kamloops**

- Aberdeen Mall: Information booth, prize draw, "Kiss the Kidney" event with Kidney Foundation's mascot, "Sidney the Kidney"
- Sahali Mall 11:00 am - 3:00 pm: Ribbon cutting ceremony with Mayor Peter Milobar, onsite dialysis machines, appearance by "Sidney the Kidney," blood pressure and blood sugar testing, information booth, awareness walk and Health Fair including participants from the Diabetes Foundation, Heart and Stroke Foundation, Canadian Red Cross, and much more!

**Kelowna**

- Orchard Park Mall 10:00 am - 9:00 pm: Blood pressure testing, information booth, kidney quiz, kidney bean guessing contest with prizes, information session and awareness walk

**Penticton**

- Cherry Lane Mall (at Starbucks): Starbucks coffee and treats, information table with organ donor registration available, kidney quiz with door prize draw
- Penticton Regional Hospital: Kidney bean guessing contest with prizes and refreshments

**Prince George**

- Pine Centre Mall: Blood pressure testing, information booth, awareness walk at 1:00 pm
- University Hospital: Information booth, organ donation awareness t-shirts for sale

**Richmond**

- Richmond Community Dialysis Unit: Interactive contests with prizes

**Surrey**

- Dukh Niwaran Temple 15255 - 58th Ave 9:00 am - 3:00 pm: Targeted screening event. People at risk for developing kidney disease can have their kidney function levels tested and learn what to do to prevent or delay the onset or progression of kidney disease
- Surrey Memorial Hospital Kidney Care Centre: Blood pressure testing, interactive educational booth, nurse, dietitian and social worker available to provide information and answer questions

**Terrace**

- Northwest Community Hemodialysis Unit: Awareness walk

**Trail**

- Kootenay Boundary Regional Hospital: Cupcake sale
- Waneta Mall: Information booth 4:00 - 6:00 pm

**Vancouver**

- BC Children's Hospital: Blood pressure testing, information booth, appearance by "Sidney the Kidney"
- St. Paul's Hospital: Kidney bean guessing contest, "Spin the Wheel" kidney-nutrition knowledge game
- Vancouver General Hospital Kidney Clinic: Blood pressure testing, information display, kidney bean guessing contest, ongoing video presentation

**Victoria**

- Royal Jubilee Hospital: Information booth, awareness walk at 11:00 am

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