

## LATEST UPDATE – April 9, 2021

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In an effort to keep our community partners connected, we are providing you with regular COVID-19 updates.

### Ministry of Health update

In today's joint statement on B.C.'s COVID-19 response, Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, reported 1,262 new cases.

The total number of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in B.C. now stands at 109,540 since the start of the pandemic. Of the new cases, 358 people were in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region.

Across the province, there were two new COVID-19 related deaths, while 332 people are currently hospitalized, with 102 of these cases receiving treatment in ICU/critical care. The total number of individuals who have passed away due to COVID-19 is 1,495. There are 9,574 active cases of COVID-19 across B.C. currently.

There are currently 4,111 confirmed COVID-19 cases that are variants of concern in our province. Of the total cases, 105 are active and the remaining people have recovered. This includes 2,082 cases of the B.1.1.7 (U.K.) variant, 55 cases of the B.1.351 (South Africa) variant and 974 cases of the P.1 (Brazil) variant.

Yesterday, Dr. Henry provided a detailed presentation on the variants of concern in B.C. There has been an increase in the number of P.1 cases in the past few weeks. Some of this is related to more testing in clusters and screening specifically geared to detect this. Dr. Henry says there is a need to shift the strategy and to do more systematic testing and samplings to test all strains. Given high rate of transmission, the strategy moving forward will be to no longer routinely sequence for confirmation. The assumption will be those positives cases are the variants. You can view the presentation here. [http://news.gov.bc.ca/files/20210408-PHO-Presentation\\_FNL.pdf](http://news.gov.bc.ca/files/20210408-PHO-Presentation_FNL.pdf)

Dr. Henry says workplaces continue to be sustained areas of transmission, clusters and outbreaks. These have put additional strain on public health resources, so a new provincial health officer Expedited Workplace Closure order is being put in place to allow WorkSafeBC inspectors to support the work of public health and to support businesses when a COVID-19 outbreak occurs at the worksite.

Starting Monday, when the public health investigation determines that transmission has occurred at the workplace, an order may be issued closing the workplace for 10 days or longer to stop the transmission. In the case of complex workplaces (e.g., large construction sites), the closure may be restricted to those parts of the workplace where transmission has occurred.

When a closure is ordered, WorkSafeBC will serve the closure notice and will then support the workplace to review and enhance safety plans, as needed.

### COVID-19 Hospitalization data

A comparison of hospitalization rates from September 2020 through February 2021 to March 2021 found there isn't an increased rate of hospitalization by age. The hospitalization rate for those diagnosed with COVID-19 variant is about 4.2 per cent. The hospital rate for those with the B117 is slightly elevated at 5.2 per cent. The P.1 variant hospitalization rates were not elevated, but it was based on a very small number. Only 36 people were hospitalized with P.1 over the month of March.

However, Dr. Henry says there is a much lower age group of people infected with the P.1. Twenty to 29 and 30 to 39 year-olds are over-represented in P.1 rates and that's a reflection of where the outbreaks are happening and the increased transmissibility in those outbreaks. While there have been clusters in every region, the transmission is primarily in the Vancouver Coastal region.

### Vaccination update

Since the start of immunizations, more than 1 million 1,025,019 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca-SII COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in B.C. In total, 44 per cent of British Columbians over the age of 65 have been vaccinated. Meanwhile, 80 per cent of people over the age of 80 have been vaccinated.

Updated information on who should get a COVID-19 vaccine can be found [here](#) and there is more information about vaccine aftercare [here](#). More information and immunization data is available through this page: BCCDC.

## Updates to VCH's implementation of Phase 2 of B.C.'s immunization plan

The Get Vaccinated online vaccine registration and booking system for B.C.'s age-based immunization program is open for everyone 65 years old and over to register and later book their vaccine appointment. You will be contacted when you are eligible to book your appointment.

There are three easy steps to register to book your vaccine appointment:

- Register: First, register when it is your turn and get a confirmation code.
- Book: Book a vaccine appointment when you get an email, text or phone call that says you are eligible to book, based on your age.
- Get vaccinated: Visit a vaccine clinic to get your vaccine dose.

For more information about booking an appointment visit, [gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated](http://gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated).

VCH is appealing to family members, friends, neighbours and social services agencies to help reach eligible seniors in the community. Please share this COVID-19 vaccination update with eligible seniors and Indigenous peoples along with Elders, to help them plan and book their appointment.

## Second province-wide COVID survey seeks insights to support recovery for British Columbians

After more than one year of the pandemic, public health experts across the province are again asking British Columbians to share their experiences. This year, the [Survey on Population Experiences, Action and Knowledge \(SPEAK\)](#) seeks to better understand the experiences of British Columbians over the past 12 months. The survey provides valuable information about how we are all holding up, one year into the pandemic.

## VCH COVID-19 vaccination survey

VCH has also launched a brief survey asking people in our communities about the COVID-19 vaccine information they need most as they book a vaccine appointment and receive their vaccine at a clinic, as well as whether they plan to get a COVID-19 vaccine. The learnings will help ensure VCH is providing the most relevant materials about the COVID-19 vaccination program to our communities. The survey consists of only five questions and takes up to five minutes to complete. It is currently available in English, traditional Chinese, simplified Chinese and Punjabi: <https://engage.vch.ca/covid-19-vaccination-survey>. We encourage you to complete the survey and share it widely.

- **VCH website information and Questions & Answers:**

[\[English\]](#) | [\[Arabic\]](#) | [\[ASL\]](#) | [\[Chinese – Simplified\]](#) | [\[Chinese – Traditional\]](#) | [\[Farsi\]](#) | [\[French\]](#) | [\[Korean\]](#) | [\[Punjabi\]](#) | [\[Spanish\]](#) | [\[Tagalog\]](#) | [\[Vietnamese\]](#)

- **How to get vaccinated:**

[\[English\]](#) | [\[Arabic\]](#) | [\[Chinese – Simplified\]](#) | [\[Chinese – Traditional\]](#) | [\[Farsi\]](#) | [\[French\]](#) | [\[Hindi\]](#) | [\[Japanese\]](#) | [\[Korean\]](#) | [\[Punjabi\]](#) | [\[Spanish\]](#) | [\[Tagalog\]](#) | [\[Vietnamese\]](#)

- **After-care information:**

[\[English\]](#) | [\[Arabic\]](#) | [\[ASL\]](#) | [\[Chinese – Simplified\]](#) | [\[Chinese – Traditional\]](#) | [\[Farsi\]](#) | [\[French\]](#) | [\[Korean\]](#) | [\[Punjabi\]](#) | [\[Spanish\]](#) | [\[Tigrinya\]](#) | [\[Vietnamese\]](#)

- **COVID-19 vaccine information poster:**

[\[English\]](#) | [\[Arabic\]](#) | [\[Chinese – Simplified\]](#) | [\[Chinese – Traditional\]](#) | [\[Farsi\]](#) | [\[French\]](#) | [\[Korean\]](#) | [\[Punjabi\]](#) | [\[Spanish\]](#) | [\[Tagalog\]](#) | [\[Vietnamese\]](#)

## Testing

Anyone in the VCH region with cold, influenza or COVID-19-like symptoms, however mild, can now be assessed for and get a COVID-19 test. Contact your physician or nurse practitioner's office, or a local community collection centre to arrange for a test. Phone numbers and locations of collection centres can be found by visiting: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing> or by calling 8-1-1. For more information and latest updates on COVID-19, follow the BC Centre for Disease Control on Twitter @CDCofBC or visit the website: <http://www.bccdc.ca/>.

**Other resources**

To find the Provincial Health Officer's orders, visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

To see a map of **COVID-19 cases by local health area**, visit: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data>

For a listing of the **community exposure events**, go to: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/public-exposures>

For the **latest medical updates**, including case counts, prevention, risks and testing, visit: <http://www.bccdc.ca/>

For **community engagement opportunities** at VCH, see: <https://engage.vch.ca/>