

LATEST UPDATE – April 16, 2021

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

Ministry of Health update

In yesterday's joint statement on B.C.'s COVID-19 response, Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, reported 1,205 new cases. Of the new cases, 301 people were in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region.

The total number of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in B.C. now stands at 116,075 since the start of the pandemic. There are 10,052 active cases of COVID-19 across B.C. currently.

Across the province, there were three new COVID-19 related deaths, while 409 people are currently hospitalized, with 125 of these cases receiving treatment in ICU/critical care. The total number of individuals who have passed away due to COVID-19 is 1,524.

Roughly 60 per cent of the new cases are believed to be from one of the three variants of concern, though predominantly the B.1.1.7 (U.K.) variant. In VCH, more than 70 per cent of new cases are likely one of the variants of concern, with the most common one being the P.1 or Brazilian strain.

Dr. Henry provided an update on the COVID-19 data in the province. She notes an increase in the number of young people in hospital, particularly those aged 40 to 59 in the last few weeks. There is also a rise in the 60 to 79-year-old age group in hospital. There has been a steady levelling off of people over age 80 in hospital, while there is a slight increase in people aged 20 to 39 who need hospitalization, though the rates in that group remain relatively low. With hospitalization now being driven by people between the ages of 40 and 79, Dr. Henry says it is important to continue to focus the age-based immunization program on those down to age 40, in particular, because the vaccine not only protects against some transmission, but more importantly, protects against severe infections, hospitalizations, and deaths.

In terms of overall hospital capacity, the province's base-bed occupancy is 92.4 per cent across the system, with 714 vacant base beds. Of the total 11,939 beds, which includes base and surge beds, there are 3,117 vacant beds. In critical care, the base-bed occupancy in critical care is 80.5 per cent, with 105 vacant base beds. The total occupancy in critical care when base and surge beds are added is 780, with 339 vacant, for an occupancy rate of 56.5 per cent.

COVID-19 school setting data

Dr. Henry provided a summary of data focused on the school setting within VCH between September and December of last year. The data showed there were 124,000 students and staff in the school system and 699 COVID-19 cases for those participating in in-school learning. Roughly, three-quarters of COVID-19 cases were in students and one-quarter were in staff. Less than one per cent of the 124,000 students and staff acquired COVID-19 between September and December. Dr. Henry says the data suggests that despite what was happening in the community, schools are a relatively low transmission environment and that the measures that were in place in VCH schools during that period of time were effective in preventing widespread transmission in the school setting. Dr. Henry also adds that COVID-19 cases in schools reflect what's happening in the community around them. Most of the cases in the school setting were acquired outside of the school and there was little transmission within the school itself, so it does not appear to be a major driver of community transmission.

COVID-19 vaccine update

Since the start of immunizations, 1,235,863 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca-SII COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in B.C. In total, 26.7 per cent of all eligible British Columbians have been vaccinated, with 45,000 people in a 24-hour period on Wednesday receiving their first dose.

This week, the province received 138,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine that were expected. B.C. also received 42,900 additional doses of the COVISHIELD, the AstraZeneca vaccine. The province is hoping to receive some of 105,900 Moderna vaccines that were expected by Friday. A total of 1,348,547 people have registered with the province's vaccine registrations and 362,857 have booked appointments.

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](#).

COVID-19 update for Whistler

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) continues to closely monitor COVID-19 cases in the Whistler community, as we do with all communities in our region.

- From April 6 to April 11, VCH identified 179 new cases of COVID-19 in Whistler.
- From Jan. 1 to April 11, there have been 1,685 cases recorded in the Whistler community.
- Of these, 1,457 individuals have recovered from COVID-19.

The reported cases continue to be among young adults who live and work in the Whistler community. The most common location for transmission continues to be in household settings and social gatherings.

VCH encourages all Whistler adults 18 years of age and older who have not yet been vaccinated, and who have a primary residence in Whistler or who work in the Whistler community, to book a COVID-19 vaccination at www.vchcovid19vaccine.com.

The vaccination clinic at the Whistler Conference Centre is open from April 15 - 18 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and VCH aims to vaccinate all of those who are eligible during this time.

VCH strongly advises residents in Whistler in our region to continue to follow public health guidelines, including those who have been vaccinated. VCH also asks any Whistler residents who experience COVID-19-like symptoms to complete the [BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) and to access testing services in their community, if required.

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

As part of priorities determined by the Provincial Health Officer, VCH will begin vaccinating police officers, firefighters, and kindergarten to Grade 12 educational staff against COVID-19 this week. Given the constraints on vaccine supply, VCH will begin with departments and schools that are at increased risk as a result of recent COVID-19 transmission in their communities.

As part of this vaccination program, VCH is working directly with police departments, fire departments and school districts to confirm the eligibility of those who attend clinics for vaccination. Those eligible to be vaccinated will be notified directly by their respective police department, fire departments and school district.

Get registered for COVID-19 vaccine

People born in 1976 and earlier (45 and older), Indigenous peoples 18 and older, and those who are clinically extremely vulnerable are invited to register through B.C.'s new Get Vaccinated system in one of three ways:

- Quickly online, 24/7, at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated.html>
- Through a provincial call centre between 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. (Pacific time) at 1 833 838-2323
- In person at the nearest Service BC location.

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 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>.

• Vaccine safety information:

[\[English\]](#) | [\[简体中文 Chinese Simplified\]](#) | [\[繁體中文 Chinese Traditional\]](#) | [\[한국어 Korean\]](#) | [\[ਪੰਜਾਬੀ Punjabi\]](#) | [\[Tagalog\]](#)

- **Aftercare information:**

[\[English\]](#) | [\[العربية Arabic\]](#) | [\[American Sign Language - ASL\]](#) | [\[简体中文 Chinese Simplified\]](#) | [\[繁體中文 Chinese Traditional\]](#) | [\[فارسی Farsi\]](#) | [\[Français French\]](#) | [\[한국어 Korean\]](#) | [\[ਪੰਜਾਬੀ Punjabi\]](#) | [\[Español Spanish\]](#) | [\[Tigrinya\]](#) | [\[Tiếng Việt Vietnamese\]](#)

- **COVID-19 vaccine posters:**

[\[English\]](#) | [\[简体中文 Chinese Simplified\]](#) | [\[繁體中文 Chinese Traditional\]](#) | [\[فارسی Farsi\]](#) | [\[한국어 Korean\]](#) | [\[ਪੰਜਾਬੀ Punjabi\]](#) | [\[Tiếng Việt Vietnamese\]](#)

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

[\[English\]](#) | [\[العربية Arabic\]](#) | [\[American Sign language - ASL\]](#) | [\[简体中文 Chinese Simplified\]](#) | [\[繁體中文 Chinese Traditional\]](#) | [\[فارسی Farsi\]](#) | [\[Français French\]](#) | [\[한국어 Korean\]](#) | [\[ਪੰਜਾਬੀ Punjabi\]](#) | [\[Español Spanish\]](#) | [\[Tagalog\]](#) | [\[Tiếng Việt Vietnamese\]](#)

- **COVID-19 vaccine information sessions hosted by S.U.C.C.E.S.S. and VCH (Cantonese and Mandarin)**
[\[Cantonese\]](#) | [\[Mandarin\]](#)

Advance Care Planning virtual workshops 網上預先安排護理計劃講座(普通話)

This is an award-winning program led by a group of CEAN volunteers. They are organizing three FREE Zoom workshops in English and Mandarin for anyone wishing to learn more about advance care planning. [Register here](#) and learn more.

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

Find the Provincial Health Officer's orders [here](#).

To see a map of **COVID-19 cases by local health area**, [visit here](#).

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/>