

## LATEST UPDATE – APRIL 1, 2022

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

### Updated COVID-19 treatment eligibility

There is now additional guidance on the prescribing of COVID-19 therapies, sotrovimab and Paxlovid, to support delivery of care to eligible patients. Thanks to an increase in medication supply and operational capacity, as of Mar. 23, all patients at risk for disease progression to hospitalization can now be offered treatment. To be eligible for treatment, patients must first test positive for COVID-19.

Provincial testing eligibility at public test sites has been updated accordingly to ensure those who are eligible for treatment are also eligible for testing if they develop COVID-19 symptoms. Updated eligibility includes people who are immunocompromised or clinically extremely vulnerable, some unvaccinated or partially vaccinated people, and others who may be at risk of serious illness from COVID-19.

Find out more here: [bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/treatments](https://bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/treatments).

### COVID-19 positive test result reporting changes

As of Apr. 1, self-reporting of COVID-19 test results through the [online COVID Positive Test Result Reporting Form](#) will no longer be required.

If you have recently tested positive for COVID-19, visit the [COVID-19 Treatments](#) webpage to see if you may benefit from COVID-19 treatment. Please visit the [If you have COVID-19 webpage](#) for information on what to do if you have COVID-19 and how to manage your symptoms.

You can also call 8-1-1 anytime to talk to a nurse at HealthLinkBC. This service is available in 130 languages. If your symptoms worsen, or if you do not improve after five or six days, call 8-1-1, your family doctor or an Urgent and Primary Care Centre (UPCC), so they can determine if you need to be assessed again.

### COVID-19 vaccination campaign continues to transition

B.C. has one of the highest vaccinated populations in the world, and demand for vaccine appointments at community clinics has declined. Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) is now focusing on the delivery of pediatric vaccines to children aged five to 11, and working in partnership with pharmacies to ensure ongoing access to COVID-19 vaccines for everyone who is eligible.

To book a vaccine appointment, [register on the provincial system](#) or call 1-833-838-2323. [Service BC locations](#) can also help you register for a vaccine. Access a full list of VCH vaccination

clinics, including pop-up clinics, by visiting <http://www.vch.ca/vaccine>. And get your BC Vaccine Card at [gov.bc.ca/vaccinecard](http://gov.bc.ca/vaccinecard), by calling 1-833-838-2323 or from a Service B.C. Centre.

COVID-19 vaccination information and resources, including guidance on how to prepare children for vaccination, can be found on [the BCCDC website](#) and more information on VCH supports for children can be found [here](#). This information is also available in Chinese [Simplified](#) and [Traditional](#) | [Punjabi](#) | [Vietnamese](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Farsi](#) | [Arabic](#)

### **COVID-19 vaccine update**

As of Thursday, March 31, 2022, 90.8% (4,528,450) of eligible people five and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 87.3% (4,352,964) have received their second dose.

In addition, 93.5% (4,331,950) of eligible people 12 and older have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, 91.1% (4,220,991) have received their second dose and 57.5% (2,667,279) have received a third dose.

Also, 93.8% (4,056,892) of all eligible adults in B.C. have received their first dose, 91.5% (3,956,215) have received their second dose and 59.3% (2,564,549) have received a third dose.

### **Ministry of Health update**

In the Thursday, March 31, 2022, [statement](#) on B.C.'s COVID-19 response, 281 COVID-positive individuals are in hospital and 42 are in intensive care. In the last 24 hours, two new deaths have been reported, for an overall total of 2,998.

249 new cases were reported with 55 of those in the VCH area.

The total number of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in B.C. now stands at 356,501 since the start of the pandemic.

### **VCH hosts Open Board Forum**

The VCH Board of Directors and senior leadership team invite you to our upcoming Open Board Forum at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 6. This meeting will focus on health-care topics relevant to the North Shore.

During this session, the VCH Board Chair and senior leaders will provide health-care updates on the new Lions Gate Hospital acute-care facility, seniors care, and mental health services. There will also be a public health update.

The meeting will be conducted as a telephone conference call, with participants able to ask questions during the forum. Please visit [vch.ca/boardforum](http://vch.ca/boardforum) to submit questions ahead of time and register to receive a phone call connecting you to the forum at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 6.

### **Southeast Urgent and Primary Care Centre now open**

People in southeast Vancouver now have increased access to team-based every-day health care with a new Southeast Urgent and Primary Care Centre (SE UPCC). [Learn more](#).

## Community engagement opportunities

VCH values community input. Please consider participating in or sharing the featured community engagement opportunities below:

- [Advisor recruitment - Trauma Informed Care in the ICU](#) **\*New\***  
Vancouver General Hospital's (VGH) Intensive Care Unit (ICU) leadership team is looking to embed the principles of Trauma Informed Care (TIC) into the ICU. The team is looking to engage one or two advisors from the community for their insights in helping guide the development of TIC related learning materials and strategy.
- [Advisor recruitment - Treatment resistant psychosis](#)  
VCH's South Mental Health and Substance Use team (SMHSU) is working to improve health outcomes for persons with treatment resistant psychosis, including through optimizing medication. The SMHSU team is looking to engage persons with lived experience of treatment resistant psychosis and/or their family members to review their research priorities, develop research plans, and evaluate outcomes.
- [Interviews – Improving access to osteoporosis care](#)  
St. Paul's Hospital is working to improve access to osteoporosis care after a person experiences a fragility fracture. You may have experienced a fragility fracture if you fell from standing height and/or with minimal trauma, leading to fracture. We are looking to interview those who have experienced hip, back, leg or arm fragility fractures and had received care at St. Paul's Hospital for the fracture.

## 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/>

## Thank you

We appreciate the time you spend reading these updates and hope you find the information and resources useful. If you no longer wish to receive the VCH Community Partner Update, please reply or send an email to [ce@vch.ca](mailto:ce@vch.ca) with the word "unsubscribe". Thank you.

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## Land Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge that our places of work and the Vancouver Coastal Health facilities lie on the traditional homelands of the First Nation Communities of the Heiltsuk, Kitasoo-Xai'xais, Lil'wat, x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm, N'Quatqua, Nuxalk, Samahquam, shíshálh, Skatin, Squamish, Tla'amin, Tseil-Waututh, Ulkatcho, Wuikinuxv, and Xa'xtsa.