LATEST UPDATE – DECEMBER 3, 2021

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

COVID-19 vaccine update
As of Friday, Dec. 3, 85.1% (4,240,459) of eligible people five and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 81.8% (4,079,299) have received their second dose.

In addition, 91.2% (4,229,649) of eligible people 12 and older have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, 88% (4,079,277) received their second dose and 10% (469,176) have received a third dose.

Also, 91.6% (3,963,783) of all eligible adults in B.C. have received their first dose, 88.5% (3,829,103) received their second dose and 11% (468,509) have received a third dose.

Since December 2020, the Province has administered 8,761,618 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Pfizer Pediatric COVID-19 vaccines.

Ministry of Health update
In the Dec. 3 statement on B.C.’s COVID-19 response, 405 new cases were reported with 45 of those in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) area.

The total number of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in B.C. now stands at 214,047 since the start of the pandemic. There are 3,071 active cases of COVID-19 across B.C. currently.

In the past 24 hours, six new COVID-19 deaths were recorded, while 276 individuals are currently in hospital and 95 of those are receiving treatment in ICU/critical care. The total number of individuals who have passed away due to COVID-19 is 2,351.

Confirmation of the Omicron variant
Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, confirmed on Tuesday that there is one case of the new Covid-19 variant of concern, called Omicron, in British Columbia. The individual recently returned from Nigeria and is self-isolating. Public health teams have connected with 204 people who recently returned from affected areas for PCR testing, and those individuals are now self-isolating. The Provincial Health Officer indicated we are not yet seeing widespread transmission of this variant in B.C., but we need to continue our focus on vaccinations, masks, physical distancing and limiting our gathering sizes, especially when indoors.

Amendment of mask order for worship services
The Provincial Health Officer amended the mask order to include a requirement that participants attending worship services, including choirs, must wear a mask during service, with exceptions when eating and drinking, to allow for ceremony activities or when the reader or celebrant is appropriately distanced during the service. Worship service must be limited to 50%
of seated capacity unless all participants are vaccinated, in which case 100% capacity can be used.

**Vaccinations for children ages five to 11**

A pediatric COVID-19 vaccination is now available for children aged five to 11. Parents and guardians who have registered their child with [Get Vaccinated](#) are beginning to receive invitations to book appointments. Parents and guardians are encouraged to register their children and will be notified by text or email when it is time to book their child’s appointment.

Needles can provoke anxiety among some parents and children. The BC Centre for Disease Control has tips for [keeping calm](#) when it comes to needles.

**VCH vaccination clinics**

VCH continues to operate several mass-vaccination and pop-up clinics across the region. For a full list of VCH vaccination clinics, including pop-up clinics, please visit [http://www.vch.ca/vaccine](http://www.vch.ca/vaccine).

All clinics are accepting drop-ins for first and second doses. All are welcome at our clinics, including those without personal health numbers and people who are not residents of B.C. Clinic staff are available to help people register and book appointments at other clinics throughout the region, if needed, and can help answer any vaccine-related questions. All residents are still encouraged to register on the provincial system to ensure they receive an alert once they are eligible to book their second dose vaccination.

A reminder that people can get their BC Vaccine Card online at [gov.bc.ca/vaccinecard](http://gov.bc.ca/vaccinecard). Once verified, a person will be able to save a digital copy to their mobile device or print a hard copy to present along with their government-issued photo identification when entering designated businesses and events.

People without access to a computer can get their card from a Service BC Centre or by calling 1-833-838-2323 at the Get Vaccinated call centre.

**iCON’s 2021 virtual Chinese Health Forum: Dementia 360**

Join iCON for the 2021 virtual Chinese Health Forum: “*Take Charge of Your Health: Dementia 360*”. This free online, interactive forum will take place on Saturday, December 11 and Sunday, December 12, 2021 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Delivered in Cantonese, Mandarin and English, this forum is designed to help patients, their families and caregivers optimize their quality of life by empowering them with knowledge and resources to manage dementia.

- Recognizing Dementia - early detection and when to seek help
- Living with Dementia – nutrition and mental health, home safety
- Where and how to find help in the community - navigation of health services, treatments and medications
- Long Term Care - advanced care planning
Participants can attend the virtual health exhibition to learn more about the support programs and resources provided by local health and community organizations. For more details and to register, visit [https://bit.ly/3m5QtZD](https://bit.ly/3m5QtZD).

**VCH introduces Indigenous women’s health team**

VCH is evolving the way Indigenous women receive care in the health care setting. The *In Plain Sight: Addressing Indigenous-specific Racism and Discrimination in B.C. Health Care* report, shared lived experiences and data highlighting the devastating disparities between Indigenous women and other residents in seeking and receiving health care in British Columbia.

In the year following the release of the report, VCH’s Aboriginal Health team has developed a strategy and put resources in place to address report findings and work across the health authority to affect positive change for Indigenous women, leading to easier access to culturally safe care and better health outcomes.

Learn more about the [Indigenous Women and Family Health](https://www.ccvs.ca/healthcareforall/indigenous-health) team.

**VCH hosts Open Board Forum dedicated to residents of Steveston**

On Thursday, November 25, the VCH Board of Directors and senior leadership team hosted an Open Board Forum last week that focused on healthcare topics relevant to the Steveston neighbourhood and the broader Richmond community.

During this session, senior leaders provided updates on a variety of healthcare projects, programs and services, including the Richmond Hospital redevelopment project, the new Urgent and Primary Care Centre, as well as long-term care and mental health supports. There was also a public health update discussing the pandemic.

For ease of access, a recording is available [here](https://vch.ca).

**Community engagement opportunities**

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

- **Become a Mental Health & Substance Use Interview Panel Advisor**
  The Client and Family Support and Involvement Team for Vancouver Acute, Community & Regional Tertiary are seeking a number of client and family advisors that can be part of leadership interview panels in all of our Vancouver Mental Health and Substance Use areas: Vancouver Community, Vancouver Acute, and Regional Tertiary.

- **Tertiary Mental Health Substance Use Mandate Review**
  VCH is reviewing the Tertiary Mental Health Substance Use mandate in order to make improvements to the program. The review seeks input from up to 20 persons with lived or living experience (either personal lived experience or as a family member / caregiver) of the tertiary mental health and substance use services at VCH.

VCH community engagement opportunities can be found on our [Engage VCH](https://www.vch.ca/engagevch) homepage.
Home support resource pamphlet
VCH has developed some resource material for home support services and how to access it. This information is available in various languages.

- Home support pamphlet
  [English] | [العربية Arabic] | [فارسی Farsi] | [Français French] | [Español Spanish] | [Tagalog]
  [Tiếng Việt Vietnamese]

- Home support client handbook
  [English] | [فارسی Farsi]

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/

COVID-19 vaccination resource toolkit
- COVID-19 vaccine registration poster
  [English] | [العربية Arabic] | [簡体中文 Chinese Simplified] | [简體中文 Chinese Traditional] | [한국어 Korean] | [ਪੰਜਾਬੀ Punjabi] | [Español Spanish] | [Tagalog] | [Tiếng Việt Vietnamese]

- Vaccine safety information
  [English] | [簡体中文 Chinese Simplified] | [简體中文 Chinese Traditional] | [한국어 Korean] | [ਪੰਜਾਬੀ Punjabi] | [Tagalog]

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

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

- COVID-19 vaccine Q&A with Dr. Ray Chaboyer
  [English]

- COVID-19 vaccine info session by VCH Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. Patricia Daly
  [English]
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 with the word “unsubscribe”. Thank you.