

LATEST UPDATE – Feb. 13, 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 445 new cases. Of the new cases, 135 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 72,750 since the start of the pandemic. In B.C., there are 4,347 active cases with 226 individuals in hospital and 61 in intensive care. There were 10 additional deaths related to COVID-19, bringing the total number of individuals who have passed away due to COVID-19 to 1,288.

With the overlap of Lunar New Year, Family Day and Valentine's Day this weekend, both Dr. Henry and Minister Dix reminded British Columbians of the importance of sticking to their households and staying local to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Vaccination Update

Since the start of immunizations, 162,982 vaccinations have been delivered in B.C. (not including yesterday), with 17,562 of those being a second dose.

Dr. Henry said she anticipates Pfizer will resume shipping vaccines at higher levels beginning next week. This will allow B.C. to fully resume its immunization plan and that the focus is on wrapping-up phase one. Half of the new doses will go to second doses to complete vaccinations in long-term care.

Dr. Henry also said there has been a noticeable decrease in transmission of COVID-19 at long-term care and assisted living homes following the initial round of vaccinations. More information and immunization data is available through this page: [BCCDC](#)

COVID-19 Variants

The BC Centre for Disease Control has done extra surveillance during the past week and checked slightly more than 3,000 COVID-19 positive cases for the variants of concern, turning up three cases through genome sequencing. These results indicated limited transmission of variants of concern.

There are now 46 confirmed cases of variants of concern in B.C. There are 29 cases of the variant first identified in the UK, and 17 people have the variant first identified in South Africa. Dr. Henry said we have not seen ongoing transmissions once a variant case has been identified.

Public health officials are monitoring one variant case in Interior Health that appears to have originated in Nigeria, contracted by someone who travelled there. At this point, it's unclear if this variant is more easily transmitted or causes more severe symptoms.

Minister Dix reminded everyone to follow the COVID-19 guidelines, noting variants mean we cannot vary our COVID-19 fighting routine.

COVID-19 Cases in Whistler

Based on epidemiological data, VCH is reporting decreased community COVID-19 transmission in Whistler compared to previous weeks. As of Feb. 8, VCH identified 43 new cases of COVID-19 in Whistler and an additional 24 older cases with earlier symptom onset dates for a total of 614 cases since Jan. 1, 2021.

The majority of cases continue to be among young adults with transmission occurring predominantly in household settings. VCH advises Whistler residents to avoid social gatherings, stay home when sick, wash their hands regularly and maintain physical distance when in public.

Anyone who has previously contracted and recovered from COVID-19 is advised to continue to adhere to all public health guidance. Any residents with symptoms are advised to complete the [BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) and to access testing services if required.

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: <http://cean.vch.ca/members/current-opportunities/>