

LATEST UPDATE – FEBRUARY 18, 2022

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

Pandemic restrictions in B.C. eased

The province has announced the [easing of COVID-19 restrictions](#), while maintaining key protective measures to support the health and safety of all British Columbians.

While keeping the BC Vaccine Card, indoor masking requirements and COVID-19 safety plans in place, Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, lifted restrictions on personal gatherings, organized gatherings and events, nightclubs, bars and restaurants, exercise and fitness, and adult sports tournaments. Capacity limits will return to normal.

With more than 90 per cent of eligible B.C. residents vaccinated with their second dose, British Columbia will transition to a sustainable COVID-19 management plan focusing on vaccination, self-monitoring and specific actions to protect those most at risk. The decision to ease restrictions is based on a careful review of data by the provincial health officer and the BC Centre for Disease Control.

Based on hospitalization and critical care rates over the coming days and weeks, the provincial health officer will review the remaining protective measures by March 15, and again by April 12.

Vancouver Convention Centre vaccination clinic winds down

Thanks to the efficient delivery of B.C.'s booster campaign, many thousands of residents in the VCH region received COVID-19 vaccine at the immunization clinic at the Vancouver Convention Centre over the past month, and with lessening demand, the clinic will wind down operations after this Sunday, Feb. 20.

The downtown clinic first opened in March 2021, and during the five months of its initial operations, delivered more than 418,000 vaccinations. Since re-opening in January 2022 to support the province's COVID-19 booster campaign, the clinic has delivered more than 5,000 immunizations a day, for an estimated total of more than 600,000 vaccinations administered since the start of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign. We wish to thank our clinic staff for their hard work and dedication, as well as our partners, including BC Pavilion Corporation (PavCo), the Vancouver Convention Centre and Ceres Terminals Canada.

VCH continues to regularly monitor vaccination clinic operations, resources and demand, and to adjust our approach based on community needs. Resources from this clinic will be redirected to other healthcare services, including targeted outreach efforts in specific communities and to support other vaccination clinics. [Learn more](#).

COVID-19 information sessions for Cantonese and Mandarin speakers

In partnership with [S.U.C.C.E.S.S.](#), [iCON](#) and [UBC](#), VCH is pleased to support COVID-19 information sessions on Feb. 23 in Cantonese and Mar. 2 in Mandarin.

Both information sessions will provide up-to-date information on COVID-19, including:

- Understanding COVID-19 variants and benefits of vaccination
- Protecting yourself and your family from COVID-19
- Understanding emerging treatments for COVID-19
- Addressing misinformation

We invite you to join these information sessions and share this information with your Cantonese or Mandarin-speaking family members and friends. [Learn more.](#)

COVID-19 vaccination resources for parents and guardians of children age 5-11

On January 25, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) [strengthened their recommendations](#) on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in children five to 11 years of age. NACI now recommends that a complete series of Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine should be offered to children in this age group who do not have contraindications to the vaccine, with a dosing interval of at least eight weeks between the first and second dose.

VCH has developed a poster and brochure with the goal of providing additional information and resources to parents and guardians of children ages 5 to 11 regarding COVID-19 vaccination. The downloadable and printable poster and brochure are available at vch.ca/pediatricvaccine and are linked below for your quick reference. We encourage you to share these with your clients.

Poster: download and print the COVID-19 vaccination for ages 5 to 11 posters, available in multiple languages: [English](#) | [Traditional Chinese](#) | [Simplified Chinese](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Vietnamese](#)

Brochure: download and print the COVID-19 vaccination for ages 5 to 11 brochures, available in multiple languages: [English](#) | [Traditional Chinese](#) | [Simplified Chinese](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Vietnamese](#)

Please note: Korean, Punjabi, Farsi, Arabic, Tagalog, Russian and Japanese versions are forthcoming.

VCH vaccination clinics

All VCH clinics are accepting drop-ins for first and second doses, but appointments are required for children aged five to 11 years old, and for booster or third doses. All are welcome at our clinics, including those without personal health numbers and people who are not residents of B.C. 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, by calling 1-833-838-2323 or from a Service B.C. Centre.

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) COVID-19 vaccination clinics are offering dedicated supports to children five to 11 years of age. As they are booking their child's appointment through the [Get](#)

[Vaccinated](#) system, parents and guardians can choose from a number of options based on their child's specific care needs.

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, Feb. 17, 2022, 90.5% (4,508,740) of eligible people five and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 85.5% (4,261,431) have received their second dose.

In addition, 93.1% (4,317,588) of eligible people 12 and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, 90.5% (4,196,797) received their second dose and 53.6% (2,482,432) have received a third dose.

Also, 93.5% (4,043,977) of all eligible adults in B.C. have received their first dose, 91.0% (3,935,434) received their second dose and 56.0% (2,421,361) have received a third dose.

Ministry of Health update

In the Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022, [statement](#) on B.C.'s COVID-19 response, 744 COVID-positive individuals are in hospital and 120 are in intensive care. In the last 24 hours, five new deaths have been reported, for an overall total of 2,781.

782 new cases were reported with 132 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 343,064 since the start of the pandemic.

Find the latest testing guidelines on the BCCDC website

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) aligns its clinical processes and practices across our testing sites with [provincial testing guidelines](#), which prioritize testing for those at higher risk of serious illness and those who live or work in high-risk settings. Testing criteria is available on the [BCCDC website](#).

Before attending a VCH testing site, please ensure you are eligible for testing. If you are not eligible, please review guidance on [self-monitoring and self-isolation](#).

Please note that VCH public testing sites do not provide testing for travel and recreational purposes. VCH testing sites will not test individuals who require proof of a negative test to return to work, school or recreational activities. [A list of private pay clinics](#) that accommodate testing services for these purposes is also available on the [BCCDC website](#).

Know where to go for the right care this winter

Winter can be an exciting time of year, but it also comes with an increase in people visiting the emergency department (ED). While it is important to visit the E for emergent health issues,

non-life threatening urgent and non-urgent conditions can often be effectively managed by urgent primary care centres (UPCCs), family doctors, walk-in clinics or other services. Those who are unsure where to access care can call 8-1-1 for general health guidance and information on services available in their local community.

Both hospitals and community clinics continue to be safe place to access treatment and care. Find out more [here](#) about where and when to seek care this winter.

Access translated resources in the following languages:

Winter care poster in [English](#) | [Chinese Simplified \(简体中文\)](#) | [Traditional \(繁體中文\)](#) | [Punjabi \(ਪੰਜਾਬੀ\)](#) | [Arabic](#) | [Korean \(한국어\)](#) | [Tagalog](#) | [Japanese](#) | [Farsi](#) | [Russian](#) | [Spanish \(Español\)](#) | [Vietnamese \(Tiếng Việt\)](#)

Winter care postcard in [English](#) | [Chinese Simplified \(简体中文\)](#) | [Traditional \(繁體中文\)](#) | [Punjabi \(ਪੰਜਾਬੀ\)](#) | [Arabic](#) | [Korean \(한국어\)](#) | [Tagalog](#) | [Japanese](#) | [Farsi](#) | [Russian](#) | [Spanish \(Español\)](#) | [Vietnamese \(Tiếng Việt\)](#)

Community engagement opportunities

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

- [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.
- [Assertive Community Treatment Website Development](#)
Navigating information about mental health and substance use (MHSU) services is critical when you or someone you care for is in crisis. Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) is working to create a website that helps MSHU clients, their families and friends to quickly find important information about Assertive Community Treatment (ACT). We want to hear from individuals across the province in a survey, a focus group, and individual interviews for the development of the ACT website.
- [Survey - Medical imaging brochures](#)
Richmond Hospital's medical imaging team has developed medical imaging brochures that will be provided to patients. The goals of these brochures are to decrease the nervousness that some patients may experience before taking medical imaging tests and to help them become more knowledgeable about the tests. We would like your feedback on the brochures so that we can determine if our messaging is clear and if not, how it can be improved from your perspective.

VCH community engagement opportunities can be found on our [Engage VCH](#) homepage.

Engagement Reports

Select engagement reports are showcased below, highlighting the importance of closing the loop with engagement participants and showing what VCH has done with the community input sought.

- COVID-19 Vaccine Survey: [Read the report](#) to learn more about how community members helped shape our early vaccine communications strategy.

Visit select completed engagement projects [here](#).

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**

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

- **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 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.

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^wməθk^wəyəm, N'Quatqua, Nuxalk, Samahquam, shíshálh, Skatin, Squamish, Tla'amin, Tseil-Waututh, Ulkatcho, Wuikinuxv, and Xa'xtsa.