

LATEST UPDATE – JANUARY 17, 2022

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

Happy New Year from Vancouver Coastal Health

As we enter a new calendar year and move through another phase of the pandemic, we would like to take a moment to express our gratitude to you, our community partners, who provide critical supports to communities across our region. We look forward to continuing to work together as we strive for healthy, happy communities. We wish you and yours the very best in 2022.

Vancouver Coastal Health COVID-19 testing update

A full list of testing centers can be accessed on the [BCCDC website](#) via the collection centre finder tool ([Mobile and desktop users](#) | [Internet Explorer users](#)). Please make sure to check the hours of operation to determine whether a testing center is temporarily closed.

To support testing capacity and to prioritize care to those who are most vulnerable, Provincial Health Officer (PHO) Dr. Bonnie Henry recommends people with mild illness who are fully vaccinated can self-manage symptoms at home and don't need a test. Instead, if you're sick, stay away from others, rest, drink plenty of fluids, and get medical help if symptoms worsen. For more information about what to do if you're sick, visit [If You Have COVID-19 \(bccdc.ca\)](#).

COVID-19 vaccine update

As of Friday, Jan. 7, 2022, 88.5% (4,410,494) of eligible people *five and older* in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 83.1% (4,142,030) have received their second dose.

In addition, 92.1% (4,269,410) of eligible people *12 and older* in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, 89.4% (4,141,729) have received their second dose and 23.5% (1,089,023) have received a third dose.

Also, 92.5% (3,999,841) of *all eligible adults* in B.C. have received their first dose, 89.8% (3,885,236) received their second dose and 25.2% (1,088,028) have received a third dose.

Since December 2020, the Province has administered 9,604,331 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Pfizer Pediatric COVID-19 vaccines.

Ministry of Health update

In the Jan. 7, 2022, [statement](#) on B.C.'s COVID-19 response, 3,144 new cases were reported with 483 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 276,875 since the start of the pandemic. There are 33,184 active cases of COVID-19 across B.C. currently.

349 individuals are currently in hospital and 93 of those are receiving treatment in ICU/critical care. In the past 24 hours, nine new deaths have been reported, for an overall total of 2,439.

Students returning to school Monday, January 10

The Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, along with Jennifer Whiteside, B.C.'s education minister, announced in-person learning will resume for schools on Monday, Jan. 10. The return to classes will comprise reinforced safety measures, including schools providing three-layer disposable masks, reduced crowding, staggered break times, virtual assemblies and restricting visitors.

The notification for COVID-19 exposures will also change. Schools will work with local public health teams on a new system for notifications. School attendance will be monitored and Public Health will be notified if attendance dips below typical rates. This will trigger a response and investigation from Public Health. Parents are also encouraged to report rapid test results to their school.

More rapid COVID-19 tests arriving in B.C.

Following this week's announcement by the federal government to deliver 140 million rapid tests to provinces and territories, B.C.'s health minister noted that more than 18 million tests are expected to be received in B.C. through January and February. Approximately 600,000 tests are expected to arrive in B.C. over the next week.

Roughly 200,000 arriving late next week will be used by symptomatic teachers and school staff. B.C.'s supply will increase in mid-to-late January, and the province will expand the availability of rapid tests across education systems. The province will continue to update the public on the deployment and use of rapid tests based on certainty on timing and supply from the federal government.

Businesses provided guidance on employee absences due to COVID-19 illness

The Provincial Health Officer announced a new health order which requires COVID-19 safety plans for all businesses in B.C. WorkSafeBC is working in partnership with the provincial government to reactivate their supports for businesses.

Given the rate of COVID-19 transmission, the short incubation period of the omicron variant and the high number of people who are getting ill, the Provincial Health Officer affirmed that all businesses need to put contingency plans in place to keep their businesses operating when staff are off ill. Businesses need to anticipate that as many as a third of their workforce at any one time may become ill with COVID-19, preventing them from coming into work.

Several recommendations were provided, including:

- Anyone who can work from home should be able to do so.
- Give employees and customers the space they need to stay safe.
- Have fewer people in the same location at once, stagger shifts start times and breaks.
- Making sure that staff are not all eating lunch in a small unventilated lunch room together.
- Limit the numbers of customers in a space at any one time;

- Use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) protocols. Ensure you have well fitting, comfortable, three-layer masks and having the ability to wash your hands regularly.

Vancouver Coastal Health winter care campaign – know where to go for the right care

Winter can be an exciting time of year, but it also comes with an increase in people visiting the emergency department. After another extraordinary year, our health facilities continue to be safe places for patients. For critical, life-threatening conditions, please call 9-1-1 or go to the nearest emergency department. For other non-life-threatening matters, there are a number of options to seek care during the winter season.

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 \(Tiếng Việt\)](#)

VCH vaccination clinics

Access a full list of VCH vaccination clinics, including pop-up clinics, by visiting <http://www.vch.ca/vaccine>.

All 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, [register on the provincial system](#) or call 1-833-838-2323. [Service BC locations](#) can also help you register for a vaccine.

Get your BC Vaccine Card online at gov.bc.ca/vaccinecard. Once verified, you will be able to save a digital copy to your mobile device or print a hard copy to present along with your government-issued photo identification when entering designated businesses. Don't have access to a computer? Get your card from a Service BC Centre or by calling 1-833-838-2323 at the Get Vaccinated call centre.

Community engagement opportunities

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

- [Mental Health & Substance Use Services - Dialectical Behavioral Therapy \(DBT\) Intake Process Review](#)
We are encouraging individuals with Borderline Personality Disorder or with traits of Borderline Personality Disorder, who have been looking to access or who have accessed the Dialectical Behaviour Therapy program at VCH Mental Health & Substance Outpatient Services, to complete the short survey below. We are also encouraging input from family members of prospective/current clients.
- [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.
- [CEAN Engagement Review](#)
The Community Engagement Advisory Network (CEAN) is a network of patient and family advisors, volunteers and members of public who provide input on quality improvement, service improvement and other engagement projects at Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH). This is an opportunity to review numerous aspects of CEAN, including recruitment, onboarding, diversity, member engagement, project experience and supports. If you are or were previously involved with CEAN, we want to hear from you.

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

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

- **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, unceded homelands of the fourteen First Nation Communities of the Heiltsuk, Kitasoo-Xai'xais, Lil'wat, Musqueam, N'Quatqua, Nuxalk, Samahquam, Sechelt, Skatin, Squamish, Tla'amin, Tsleil-Waututh, Wuikinuxv, and Xa'xtsa.