

LATEST UPDATE – JANUARY 21, 2022

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

Updates to Provincial Health Orders

Earlier this week, Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry, extended the current restrictions on events and gatherings through to Feb. 16, at which point they will be reassessed. This applies to the current closures in place at bars and nightclubs in addition to limitations in restaurants, theatres, stadiums, and other indoor settings. In addition, COVID-19 safety plans for businesses will remain in place, with support offered by WorkSafe BC.

Beginning Jan. 20, gyms and exercise facilities will reopen for indoor individual and group fitness activities with capacity limits. Proof of vaccine will be required at all locations, with physical distancing requirements in place.

The B.C. Vaccine Card order will remain in place past Jan. 31 to minimize risks in settings where it is required. More details on the current PHO orders can be found [here](#).

Vancouver Coastal Health COVID-19 testing update

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) has adjusted clinical processes and practices across our testing sites to align with [new provincial testing guidelines](#), which prioritize testing for those at higher risk of serious illness and those who live or work in high-risk settings. Further information about the new 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, guidance on self-monitoring and self-isolation is available on [the BCCDC website](#).

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 available on the [BCCDC website](#).

Health authority parking will be available to those who need most

With \$78 million in parking fees waived since April 1, 2020, [pay parking will be reinstated](#) at B.C. health authority sites to ensure that parking spots are available for patients, staff, volunteers and visitors, and so that free parking can continue to be extended to those who regularly receive certain treatments in acute-care settings.

This change comes into effect March 4, 2022.

Free parking at provincial health-care facilities will continue for patients receiving dialysis treatment or undergoing cancer treatment in acute-care programs, and for parents or caregivers of children staying in the hospital overnight. Volunteers will still be able to park for

free, and financial hardship provisions will continue to be managed on a case-by-case basis by health authorities.

Health Canada approves COVID-19 treatment

Earlier this week, Health Canada approved the use of Paxlovid, a medication to treat adults with mild to moderate COVID-19 who are at high risk of progressing to serious disease, including hospitalization or death.

Until now, authorized medications for COVID-19 have had to be taken in a hospital or healthcare setting. Paxlovid is the first COVID-19 therapy that can be taken at home. The drug is intended for use as soon as possible after diagnosis of COVID-19 and within five days of the start of symptoms.

Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry [said](#) on Tuesday that the province expects to receive approximately 4,000 treatment doses and is working with the clinical care advisory team to distribute the treatment where it can be most effective. While antivirals play a role in reducing serious illness associated with COVID-19 infection, vaccination continues to be our best defense against the virus providing protection to you and to those around you.

COVID-19 vaccine update

As of Thursday, Jan. 20, 2022, 89.4% (4,455,046) of eligible people five and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 83.5% (4,161,148) have received their second dose.

In addition, 92.5% (4,286,419) of eligible people 12 and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, 89.8% (4,160,597) have received their second dose and 36.7% (1,700,206) have received a third dose.

Also, 92.8% (4,015,411) of all eligible adults in B.C. have received their first dose, 90.2% (3,902,659) have received their second dose and 39.3% (1,698,882) have received a third dose.

Ministry of Health update

In the Jan. 20, 2022, [statement](#) on B.C.'s COVID-19 response, 891 COVID-positive individuals are in hospital and 119 are in intensive care. In the past 24 hours, 15 new deaths have been reported, for an overall total of 2,520.

2,150 new cases were reported with 454 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 305,715 since the start of the pandemic. There are 34,835 active cases of COVID-19 across B.C. currently.

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.

National Non-Smoking Week – Get the scoop

Do your kids know more about vaping than you do? Do they have the right information? Do you? During the pandemic, vaping among young people continues to be an epidemic. To mark National Non-Smoking Week, VCH's Tobacco and Vapor Products Reduction team shares interesting insights into the vaping industry as well as [supports and resources](#) for youth and adults alike.

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 (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:

- [Assertive Community Treatment Website Development](#) *New*
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.
- [Patient Advisor - "Code Blue" training review for staff](#) *New*
The Mock Code Blue Simulation Program helps train healthcare staff in responding to a code blue event. This training program now has an opportunity to involve patient/family/public partners for their input. Specifically the program is looking to improve the quality of the communication when the primary care team reports to the Code Blue Team upon their arrival.
- [Survey - Medical imaging brochures](#) *New*
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.

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, Kitsoo-Xai'xais, Lil'wat, Musqueam, N'Quatqua, Nuxalk, Samahquam, Sechelt, Skatin, Squamish, Tla'amin, Tsleil-Waututh, Wuikinuxv, and Xa'xtsa.