

## LATEST UPDATE – MARCH 4, 2022

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

### Province-wide restrictions being reviewed

Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry said she expects COVID-19 transmission to continue to decrease and, as spring approaches, there will likely no longer be a need for the extra layers of protection that have been in place during the peak of the Omicron variant. However, she noted the province is being cautious and moving slowly, making decisions based on data in B.C. Dr. Henry is optimistic we are moving to a better place and will provide an update on restrictions in the near future.

### Postponed surgeries are being rescheduled

B.C.'s Health Minister announced that all health authorities, including Vancouver Coastal Health, have begun re-scheduling and completing postponed surgeries. 99.8 per cent of patients whose surgeries were postponed in the first wave have had their surgeries, 92.4 per cent of patients whose surgeries were postponed in waves two and three have had their surgeries, and 49.2 per cent of patients whose surgeries were postponed in waves four and five have now had their surgeries as well. Surgery postponements can be stressful for patients and their families, and VCH is committed to rescheduling these procedures as quickly as possible.

### Parking at VCH sites

Starting March 4, 2022, pay parking is being reinstated at all B.C. health authority sites, including at VCH facilities, to ensure that parking spots are available for patients, staff, volunteers and visitors.

To ensure parking fees do not create a barrier to access for patients and visitors, parking exemptions will be available to people who meet certain criteria.

To learn more about parking at VCH, including exemptions and reimbursements, please visit [www.vch.ca/parking](http://www.vch.ca/parking).

### COVID-19 information sessions for Cantonese and Mandarin speakers

In partnership with [S.U.C.C.E.S.S.](#), [iCON](#) and [UBC](#), Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) presented at two COVID-19 information sessions in Cantonese and Mandarin.

Both information sessions provided 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

Visit [this page](#) for more information and to access the recordings.

## VCH vaccination campaign begins to transition

B.C. has one of the highest vaccinated populations in the world, and demand for vaccine appointments at community clinics has declined. VCH is now focusing on the delivery of pediatric vaccines to children aged five to 11, and working in partnership with pharmacies to ensure ongoing access to COVID-19 vaccines for everyone who is eligible.

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](http://gov.bc.ca/vaccinecard), by calling 1-833-838-2323 or from a Service B.C. Centre.

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, March 3, 2022, 90.6% (4,517,958) of eligible people five and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 86.3% (4,303,614) have received their second dose.

In addition, 93.3% (4,323,865) of eligible people 12 and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, 90.8% (4,206,659) have received their second dose and 55.9% (2,590,923) have received a third dose.

Also, 93.6% (4,049,516) of all eligible adults in B.C. have received their first dose, 91.2% (3,943,913) have received their second dose and 57.9% (2,503,289) have received a third dose.

## Ministry of Health update

In the Thursday, March 3, 2022, [statement](#) on B.C.'s COVID-19 response, 511 COVID-positive individuals are in hospital and 79 are in intensive care. In the last 24 hours, 13 new deaths have been reported, for an overall total of 2,896.

391 new cases were reported with 43 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 349,604 since the start of the pandemic.

## International Women's Day

Leading up to International Women's Day — Tuesday, March 8 — we're highlighting just a few of the thousands of incredible women who help deliver exceptional care at Vancouver Coastal Health. Read about all of them in [VCH news](#) and see more photos on our [VCH Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) channels.

## 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 ED 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:

- [Feedback - Powell River Hospital maternal care satisfaction survey](#)  
Powell River General Hospital's maternal care team has developed a patient experience survey for mothers who have delivered at the hospital. We would like your feedback on the patient experience survey so that we can make it clearer and streamlined.
- [Advisor recruitment - Treatment resistant psychosis](#)  
VCH's South Mental Health and Substance Use team (SMHSU) is working to improve health outcomes for persons with treatment resistant psychosis, including through optimizing medication. The SMHSU team is looking to engage persons with lived experience of treatment resistant psychosis and/or their family members to review their research priorities, develop research plans, and evaluate outcomes.
- [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.
- Engagement Report -- COVID-19 Vaccine Survey: [Read the report](#) to learn more about how community members helped shape our early vaccine communications strategy.

VCH community engagement opportunities can be found on our [Engage VCH](#) homepage. And visit select completed engagement projects [here](#).

### 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/>

### 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](mailto:ce@vch.ca) with the word "unsubscribe". Thank you.

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### 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<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm, N'Quatqua, Nuxalk, Samahquam, shíshálh, Skatin, Squamish, Tla'amin, Tsleil-Waututh, Ulkatcho, Wuikinuxv, and Xa'xtsa.