

LATEST UPDATE – MARCH 18, 2022

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

Canada to drop COVID-19 test requirement for vaccinated travellers

The Government of Canada has [announced](#) that effective April 1, [fully vaccinated](#) travelers will no longer be required to provide a pre-entry COVID-19 test result when entering Canada by air, land or water. Fully vaccinated travellers seeking to arrive in Canada before April 1 must still have a valid pre-entry test.

Moderna COVID-19 vaccine approved for children aged 6 to 11

Health Canada has [approved](#) the use of Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine for children between the ages of six and 11 years old. The vaccine was recently cleared for use among kids in the same age group in Australia and the European Union.

Changes to visitation at long-term care homes

As of March 18, 2022, the number of visitors to long-term care facilities are no longer restricted as long as visitors are fully vaccinated and screened. Visitors should check with their local care home. [Read more](#).

Additional COVID-19 restrictions to be lifted in April

The following changes will be made to public health orders effective April 8, 2022, at 12:01 a.m.:

- Showing the BC Vaccine Card proof of vaccination will no longer be required to access non-essential events, services and businesses.
 - Individual businesses and organizations can choose to continue to require the BC Vaccine Card proof on their premises.
- The remainder of the Workplace Safety Order will be lifted, which means businesses will transition back to communicable disease plans to reduce risk of all communicable diseases.
- The requirement for students residing in residence to be fully vaccinated under the Post-secondary Institution Housing COVID-19 Preventative Measures Order will be repealed.

For all recent changes to public health orders, [read more here](#).

Age limit lowered for Rapid Test Kits

The Province has announced that [free COVID-19 Rapid Test Kits](#) are now available to individuals aged 40 and older. Those eligible can request a kit of five tests once every 28 days. The kits are available at more than 1,200 community pharmacies; a list can be found [here](#).

Update to provincial COVID-19 results line

The province has updated its COVID-19 results line to improve service delivery for British Columbians seeking their result following a COVID-19 test. The 1-833-707-2792 line can now provide COVID-19 test results 24 hours per day. Through this automated service, callers may receive the following results: Positive, Negative, Indeterminate, Cancelled or Pending.

To access this service, callers will be required to provide their PHN, date of birth and date of test. Those who have queries about their result can speak to an agent from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., seven days a week.

Further information about [how to get your test result](#), and [understanding your result](#), are available on the BCCDC website.

Spring Break Childhood Immunization Clinics

During the COVID-19 pandemic, school-age immunization programs for protection against diseases like diphtheria, whooping cough, measles and mumps were interrupted. This spring break, VCH is offering catch-up immunization appointments in communities throughout the VCH region. Find out more at [VCH.ca](#). Not sure if your child is up to date on their childhood vaccines? Check their vaccination records at [Health Gateway](#). *Please note that COVID-19 Immunization is only available through <https://www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca>

COVID-19 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/vaccinocard, 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 17, 2022, 90.8% (4,524,095) of eligible people five and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 86.9% (4,330,237) have received their second dose.

In addition, 93.4% (4,328,709) of eligible people 12 and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, 90.9% (4,214,928) received their second dose and 56.8% (2,633,652) have received a third dose.

Also, 93.7% (4,053,919) of all eligible adults in B.C. have received their first dose, 91.3% (3,951,069) received their second dose and 58.7% (2,537,194) have received a third dose.

Ministry of Health update

In the Thursday, March 17, 2022, [statement](#) on B.C.'s COVID-19 response, 298 COVID-positive individuals are in hospital and 49 are in intensive care. In the last 24 hours, seven new deaths have been reported, for an overall total of 2,960.

240 new cases were reported with 52 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 353,379 since the start of the pandemic.

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:

- [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.
- [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.

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