

LATEST UPDATE – MARCH 25, 2022

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

Rapid tests available at B.C. pharmacies for people 18+

As of March 23, rapid antigen test kits [are available](#) to people aged 18 years and older through community pharmacies.

Eligible individuals can pick up one kit of five tests every 28 days from participating pharmacies at no cost. Individuals must present their personal health number when picking up the kit or, if others are picking up kits on their behalf, in addition to the individual's name and personal health number, date of birth must also be supplied.

Individuals should pick up a test kit when not having symptoms of illness to use at a future time when having symptoms of illness. Guidelines for testing continue to indicate tests should be used for symptomatic individuals.

Government of Canada updates pre-entry test requirements

Effective April 1, 2022, [fully vaccinated travellers](#) will no longer need to provide a pre-entry COVID-19 test result to enter Canada by air, land or water. Fully vaccinated travelers arriving in Canada before April 1, 2022, must still have a valid pre-entry test.

As a reminder, travellers arriving to Canada who qualify as fully vaccinated may need to take a COVID-19 molecular test upon arrival, if selected for mandatory random testing. Travellers selected for mandatory random testing are not required to quarantine while awaiting their test result.

All travellers continue to be required to submit their mandatory information in [ArriveCAN](#) (free mobile app or website) before their arrival in Canada. Travellers who arrive without completing their ArriveCAN submission may have to test on arrival and quarantine for 14 days, regardless of their vaccination status. Travellers taking a cruise or a plane must submit their information in ArriveCAN within 72 hours before boarding.

COVID-19 vaccination campaign continues to transition

B.C. has one of the highest vaccinated populations in the world, and demand for vaccine appointments at community clinics has declined. Vancouver Coastal Health (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 Friday, March 25, 2022, 90.8% (4,526,941) of eligible people five and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 87.2% (4,344,849) have received their second dose.

In addition, 93.4% (4,330,844) of eligible people 12 and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, 91.0% (4,218,752) received their second dose and 57.3% (2,654,589) have received a third dose.

Also, 93.8% (4,055,879) of all eligible adults in B.C. have received their first dose, 91.4% (3,954,301) received their second dose and 59.0% (2,553,879) have received a third dose.

Ministry of Health update

In the Friday, March 25, 2022, [statement](#) on B.C.'s COVID-19 response, 260 COVID-positive individuals are in hospital and 50 are in intensive care. In the last 24 hours, two new deaths have been reported, for an overall total of 2,983.

218 new cases were reported with 28 of those in the VCH area.

The total number of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in B.C. now stands at 355,092 since the start of the pandemic.

A new Urgent and Primary Care Centre (UPCC) for Southeast Vancouver

Starting March 29, people in southeast Vancouver will have increased access to team-based every-day health care with a new Southeast Urgent and Primary Care Centre.

The new clinic will serve residents in the Vancouver neighbourhoods of Sunset, Victoria-Fraserview, Killarney and Marpole-Oakridge. [Learn more](#).

Please consider sharing the following poster to raise awareness of this new service.

Poster: [English](#) | [Traditional Chinese](#) | [Simplified Chinese](#) | [Punjabi](#) | [Vietnamese](#) | [Arabic](#)

VCH hosts open board forum

VCH Board of Directors and senior leadership team invite you to our upcoming Open Board Forum at 6pm on April 6. This meeting will focus on health-care topics relevant to the North Shore.

During this session, the VCH Board Chair and senior leaders will provide health-care updates on the new Lions Gate Hospital acute-care facility, seniors care, and mental health services. There will also be a public health update.

The meeting will be conducted as a telephone conference call, with participants able to ask questions during the forum. Please visit vch.ca/boardforum to submit questions ahead of time

and register to receive a phone call connecting you to the forum at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 6, 2022.

Increase in norovirus cases associated with consumption of raw oysters

VCH is warning consumers to take steps to protect their health following an increase in cases of norovirus associated with consumption of raw B.C. oysters.

The BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) has also issued a [notice](#) to restaurants and retailers in B.C. to advise them of the risk.

On March 24, Health Canada issued a [recall notice](#) for a variety of B.C. oysters following reports of norovirus contamination. The recalls include:

- Kusshi oysters, harvested and processed on March 7, 10 and 14
- Large Kusshi oysters, harvested and processed on March 7, 8 and 14
- Stellar Bay Gold oysters, harvested and processed on March 7

Based on an investigation by the BCCDC, local and federal agencies, and the shellfish industry, affected harvest areas are being closed and will reopen when contamination is cleared. Learn more about norovirus [here](#). In-depth information about how it contaminates the marine environment can be found [here](#).

How to cook oysters

To kill norovirus and other germs, it is recommended to cook oysters thoroughly, to an internal temperature of 90 degrees Celsius for 90 seconds before eating. Public health recommends against consuming raw oysters. Avoid cross-contamination of other foods during preparation and eat shellfish immediately after cooking.

Symptoms

Symptoms of norovirus include nausea, cramping, chills, fever, vomiting and diarrhea, and usually occur 12-48 hours after consumption. If you experience these symptoms after eating raw oysters, call BC HealthLink at 811. If symptoms are severe or persist, seek medical attention.

Report your illness

Oyster-related illness should be reported to VCH for investigation by calling (604) 675-3800 or by e-mail to EHVC@vch.ca.

Learn more about the safe consumption of fish and shellfish at <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/prevention-public-health/fish-shellfish-safety>

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