LATEST UPDATE – May 11, 2021

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

Ministry of Health update
In yesterday’s joint statement on B.C.’s COVID-19 response, Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, reported three days of numbers for a total of 1,759 new cases.

- Friday to Saturday – 596 cases
- Saturday to Sunday – 605 cases
- Sunday to Monday – 558 cases

Of the new cases, 325 people were in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region.

The total number of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in B.C. now stands at 136,100 since the start of the pandemic. There are 6,140 active cases of COVID-19 across B.C. currently.

Across the province, there were 20 COVID-19 related deaths, while 415 people are currently hospitalized, with 150 of these cases receiving treatment in ICU/critical care. The total number of individuals who have passed away due to COVID-19 is 1,622.

While we continue to accelerate our province-wide vaccine program, the foundation for all of us needs to be to continue to follow our COVID-19 safety basics: staying small and local, following all of public health measures and using our layers of protection – always.

COVID-19 continues to spread in our communities, which means the risks remain high for all of us. We are not yet at the point where we can ease up on the restrictions we have in place, but we are getting closer every day.

COVID-19 vaccine update
Since the start of immunizations, 2,159,103 doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in B.C., 106,058 of which are second doses.

The number of vaccines given are going up quickly, and the ages for those who are eligible are rapidly coming down. Today, anyone 40 and older can book their vaccine. That age will continue to decrease in the coming days. Additionally, anyone 18 and older who lives in one of the identified high-risk neighbourhoods can also book their vaccine.

This means more than two million people in B.C. have received their first COVID-19 vaccine dose – a significant milestone for all of us.

The focus of the B.C. COVID-19 response is to get all eligible people in British Columbia vaccinated as soon as possible. To do this, we need everyone to get registered, whether you have received your first dose or not. This ensures your doses are reserved for you.

Updated information on who should get a COVID-19 vaccine can be found here and there is more information about vaccine aftercare here. More information and immunization data is available through this page: BCCDC.

VCH high-transmission neighbourhood residents 18 years and older eligible for vaccine
As part of the B.C. COVID-19 Immunization Plan for priority neighbourhoods, Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) will offer targeted vaccinations to people who reside in the high-transmission neighbourhoods of Cedar Cottage, Grandview Woodland, Hastings Sunrise, Kensington, Killarney, Renfrew-Collingwood, Sunset and Victoria Fraserview. Residents of these neighbourhoods who are 18 years and older are encouraged to register to receive a link to book their vaccination appointment.

VCH will be opening a COVID-19 vaccine clinic at Killarney Community Centre (6260 Killarney Street) from May 8 to 14, 17 to 21 and 25 to 28 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Vaccinations will be provided by appointment only.

All B.C. residents 18 years of age and older (born in 2003 or earlier) are encouraged to register now through the provincial Get Vaccinated website, call centre (1-833-838-2323) or in person at a Service B.C. office. Translation services are available through the call centre.

Following registration, residents will be notified by phone, email or text message as soon as they are eligible to book a vaccine appointment.
VCH encourages family, friends, neighbours and social services agencies to help get the word out to adults 18+ about registering to receive their COVID-19 vaccine.

**Updates to VCH’s implementation of B.C.’s immunization plan**
Provincial registration for a COVID-19 vaccine continues for those born in 2003 or earlier (age 18 years of age and older). Information on how to register for an appointment can be found here. All British Columbians are encouraged to register, even if you have received your first dose. Registering means you will be sent a booking link for your second dose when it’s time.

As of May 9, we have had 2,391,122 people register for their vaccine. This is an increase of 389,299 over the past week. If you are already registered, help your friends and family do the same.

Please check your scheduled appointment date, time and location; arrive on time for your appointment and avoid arriving early. Wear a short-sleeve shirt as the vaccine will be delivered to your upper arm. You will be monitored after receiving your vaccine for 15 minutes.

**National Nursing Week**
This week, during National Nursing Week, let’s celebrate the many nurses who have been on our front lines and working behind the scenes to keep our province safe. Registering for a vaccine is one easy way for you to honour our nurses and make a difference in our COVID-19 pandemic today.

In celebration of Nursing Week, nurses from across VCH are taking us along for their shifts, giving us a behind-the-scenes look at the important work they do to care for our patients, clients and residents. Here is the first “diary of a day” in that series.

**VCH Open Board Meeting – Save the date**
Vancouver Coastal Health’s Board of Directors and senior leadership team invite you to our virtual Open Board Forum. This meeting is dedicated to the residents of the Killarney neighbourhood.

Open to the public, our virtual Open Board Forum is an opportunity to join a conversation with our board. The board chair and senior leaders will provide updates on COVID-19, the vaccine roll-out and available health services.

The meeting will stream online and we invite you to register and send questions in advance at vch.ca/boardforum. We will send you a link to the Open Board Forum video stream before the meeting.

**Resource toolkit:**

- **Vaccine safety information:**
  - [English] | [简体中文 Chinese Simplified] | [繁體中文 Chinese Traditional] | [한국어 Korean] | [ਪੰਜਾਬੀ Punjabi] | [Tagalog]

- **Bilingual COVID-19 vaccine safety posters:**
  - [简体中文 Chinese Simplified] | [繁體中文 Chinese Traditional] | [فارسی Farsi] | [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 posters:**
  - [English] | [简体中文 Chinese Simplified] | [繁體中文 Chinese Traditional] | [فارسی Farsi] | [한국어 Korean] | [ਪੰਜਾਬੀ Punjabi] | [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]

Testing
Anyone in the VCH region with cold, influenza or COVID-19-like symptoms, however mild, can now be assessed for and get a COVID-19 test. Contact your physician or nurse practitioner’s office, or a local community collection centre to arrange for a test. Phone numbers and locations of collection centres can be found by visiting: http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing or by calling 8-1-1. For more information and latest updates on COVID-19, follow the BC Centre for Disease Control on Twitter @CDCofBC or visit the website: http://www.bccdc.ca/.

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/