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

Ministry of Health Update
In Thursday’s joint statement on B.C.’s COVID-19 response, Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, reported 378 new cases. Of the new cases, 98 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 143,264 since the start of the pandemic. There are 3,543 active cases of COVID-19 across B.C. currently.

Across the province, there was seven new COVID-19 related deaths, while 286 people are currently hospitalized, with 88 of these cases receiving treatment in ICU/critical care. The total number of individuals who have passed away due to COVID-19 is 1,690.

Dr. Henry announced updated guidelines for indoor faith services resuming safely. The new guidelines include allowance for up to 50 people at indoor faith services with detailed COVID-19 safety plans in place. The changes include small funerals and baptisms, but not large weddings, which are still subject to the same restrictions as general indoor gatherings.

In the coming weeks, the province will be resuming the schedule for non-urgent surgeries in Metro Vancouver area hospitals. All five hospitals in VCH will be fully operational by June 7. Patients needing surgeries most will have their surgery first. This includes urgent surgeries, patients who have had their surgeries postponed, patients who waited more than twice the recommended wait time, and surgeries that do not require an overnight stay in hospital but that can be done outside the operating room.

COVID-19 Vaccine Update
Since the start of immunizations, 3,032,811 doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in B.C. This equates to 65.8 per cent of adults 18 years of age or older or 62 per cent of all eligible people in B.C. 12 years and older.

The province is moving the interval between vaccine doses to eight weeks from a maximum of 16 weeks. Roughly 400,000 people over the age of 70 and clinically extremely vulnerable people will start receiving their invitations today. Dr. Henry says the second-dose program is based on the same principles as the first dose. Those who are greatest risk will be at the top of the list for the second dose. That includes seniors and elders, Indigenous people, and people that have been identified as clinically extremely vulnerable.

Dr. Henry says the province is going to try to ensure everybody gets the second dose with the same product they had for their first dose. However, she cautioned that there have been some issues with the Moderna supply, and it could mean some people who received Moderna in one of the mass clinics or large community clinics, may be offered Pfizer for their second dose.

Updates to VCH’s Implementation of B.C.’s Immunization Plan
Currently, everyone aged 12 years and older (born in 2009 or earlier) is eligible to book their COVID-19 vaccine. You are encouraged to register:

- online at: [www.gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated](http://www.gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated)
- by telephone at 1-833-838-2323
- or in person at any Service BC centre

VCH is also offering vaccinations for people aged 12 years and older (born in 2009 or earlier) by appointment-only at a new vaccination clinic at H.J. Cambie Secondary School (4151 Jacombs Road) in Richmond. The clinic will be open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on various dates until June 5.

VCH encourages family, friends, neighbours and social services agencies to help get the word out to people aged 12 and older about registering to receive their COVID-19 vaccine.
Vancouver Coastal Health President and CEO Appointment

VCH’s Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of Vivian Eliopoulos as President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of VCH, effective immediately.

During this unprecedented year, Vivian served as interim President and CEO. Her leadership helped to guide the organization through a global pandemic while ensuring exceptional patient care remains at the heart of everything the organization does.

VCH Open Board Meeting – Save the Date

Vancouver Coastal Health’s Board of Directors and senior leadership team invite you to its virtual Open Board Forum. This meeting is dedicated to the residents of the Killarney neighbourhood, but open to all.

The 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.

Testing

Anyone in the Vancouver Coastal Health 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/.

New Home Support Resource Pamphlet

VCH has recently developed some new resource material for home support services and how to access it. This information is available in various languages.

- Home Support Pamphlet
  - [English] | [فارسی Farsi] | [العربية Arabic] | [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] | [简体中文 Chinese Simplified] | [繁體中文 Chinese Traditional] | [فارسی Farsi] | [한국어 Korean] | [ਪੰਜਾਬੀ Punjabi] | [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.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]