

## LATEST UPDATE – OCTOBER 1, 2021

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

### COVID-19 vaccine update

As of Oct. 1, 88% of eligible people 12 and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 81.1% have received their second dose. Since December 2020, the Province has administered 7,852,885 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines.

### Ministry of Health update

In the Oct. 1 statement on B.C.'s COVID-19 response, 714 new cases were reported with 73 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 187,694 since the start of the pandemic. There are 6,317 active cases of COVID-19 across B.C. currently.

11 new COVID-19 related death were recorded, while 328 people are currently hospitalized, with 138 of these cases receiving treatment in ICU/critical care. The total number of individuals who have passed away due to COVID-19 is 1,973.

A reminder that people can get their BC Vaccine Card online at [gov.bc.ca/vaccinecard](http://gov.bc.ca/vaccinecard). Once verified, a person will be able to save a digital copy to their mobile device or print a hard copy to present along with their government-issued photo identification when entering designated businesses and events.

People without access to a computer can get their card from a Service BC Centre or by calling 1-833-838-2323 at the Get Vaccinated call centre.

VCH continues to operate several mass-vaccination and pop-up clinics across the region. For a full list of VCH vaccination clinics, including pop-up clinics, please visit <http://www.vch.ca/vaccine>.

### COVID-19 cases among children

Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, [provided an update](#) on children and youth cases of COVID-19, noting rates of COVID-19 per 100,000 population have surged recently, particularly in those younger school-aged children who are not yet eligible for vaccination. The number of children being tested for COVID-19 has also increased, from 100 a day to more than 500. However, Dr. Henry also noted the rates vary by region. In areas where community vaccination rates are higher, particularly in Vancouver Coastal Health, rates among school-aged children have remained low.

## COVID-19 notification in school settings

Following the announcement from Dr. Henry that parents, families and staff will be notified of COVID-19 exposures in their school, VCH has begun posting notices on its website at <http://www.vch.ca/covid-19/school-exposures>. This webpage includes current potential exposures in VCH schools with an increased risk of ongoing transmission, including the school name and potential dates of exposure. School exposures are archived four weeks following the last date of exposure. This webpage is updated daily on weekdays from Monday to Friday, excluding all public holidays.

When a school community member receives a positive COVID-19 test, Public Health will notify the case of their test result and determine who they were in contact with while they were infectious (including at school), and follow up with those contacts, as well. If there is an increased risk of ongoing transmission to groups they were a part of (e.g. a specific class), a school exposure notice will be posted. If you have not been directly contacted by Public Health, please keep your student in class. Children and youth continue to be at low risk for serious outcomes from COVID-19, but research has shown missing school impacts mental health, social connection and learning outcomes.

## Surgical schedule update

Minister of Health Adrian Dix provided an update on the increasing pressure on the hospitals from COVID-19. Hospitals across B.C. have had to postpone surgeries and for the week of Sept. 19 to Sept. 25, 344 non-urgent surgeries were postponed, including 63 in VCH.

Cumulatively, from Sept. 5 to Sept. 25, there have been 1,143 surgical postponements. In that same reporting period, health authorities completed 5,302 surgeries.

## National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

This week, Vancouver Coastal Health honoured National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, commemorating the history and legacy of residential schools, to remember those who were lost and to honour the healing journey of survivors, families and communities.

As a health-care organization, Vancouver Coastal Health has an important role in advancing truth and reconciliation and addressing the existing health disparities and inequities in our systems. This is a responsibility we take seriously. Led by our Aboriginal Health team, we commit to continuously working to ensure Indigenous knowledge and expertise is embedded throughout our health authority. We do this through sharing training opportunities and resources, creating welcoming spaces and supporting staff, medical staff and patients to ensure culturally-safe care is provided. [Read more](#) from Vivian Eliopoulos, President and CEO, Vancouver Coastal Health.

Learn more about the [Aboriginal Health team](#) at Vancouver Coastal Health and [some of the initiatives](#) that aim to advance cultural safety for staff, medical staff, patients and clients. A documentary, [Raising Wellness](#), shares the story behind the Indigenous house posts at Vancouver General Hospital.

## Copper Pilot Project

Following a [successful first phase](#) which demonstrated copper's ability to kill up to 99.9 per cent of bacteria on high-touch transit surfaces, Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) was pleased to partner with Teck Resources Limited, TransLink, and the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) to launch phase two of the Copper Pilot Project. This study explores copper as an added measure to keep people safe and healthy, both in the health care system and broader community. [Learn more about the project.](#)

## VCH vaccination clinics

VCH continues to operate several mass-vaccination and pop-up clinics across the region. For a full list of VCH vaccination clinics, including pop-up clinics, please visit <http://www.vch.ca/vaccine>.

All clinics are accepting drop-ins for first and second doses. All are welcome at our clinics, including those without personal health numbers and people who are not residents of B.C. Clinic staff are available to help people register and book appointments at other clinics throughout the region, if needed, and can help answer any vaccine-related questions. All residents are encouraged to still [register on the provincial system](#) to ensure they receive an alert once they are eligible to book their second dose vaccination.

## Community Engagement Opportunities

VCH values community input. Please consider participating in or sharing the featured community engagement opportunities below:

- [Interviews - Patient lifts in ensuite bathrooms and in-patient mental health units](#)  
Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) is updating our Facility Design Standards for new healthcare facilities to include the installation of patient lifts in patient bathrooms and in-patient mental health units. Patient lifts are designed to help move patients safely and prevent staff injuries, and we are looking for feedback about the possible impact on patients and families.

VCH community engagement opportunities can be found on our [Engage VCH](#) homepage.

## Home support resource pamphlet

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

- **Home support pamphlet**  
[\[English\]](#) | [\[العربية Arabic\]](#) | [\[فارسی Farsi\]](#) | [\[Français French\]](#) | [\[Español Spanish\]](#) | [\[Tagalog\]](#)  
[\[Tiếng Việt Vietnamese\]](#)
- **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](#)] | [[العربية Arabic](#)] | [[简体中文 Chinese Simplified](#)] | [[繁體中文 Chinese Traditional](#)] | [[فارسی Farsi](#)] | [[한국어 Korean](#)] | [[ਪੰਜਾਬੀ Punjabi](#)] | [[Español Spanish](#)] | [[Tagalog](#)] | [[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.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](#)]

## 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.