

LATEST UPDATE – September 17, 2021

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

Third doses for severely immunocompromised people

Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, said third doses of COVID-19 vaccines for severely immunocompromised people will soon be administered to those most at risk of infection.

She said about 15,000 people that the province considers to have extremely compromised immune systems will receive invitations this week for third shots. They include recipients of solid organ, bone marrow and stem cell transplants, people with blood cancers and those with certain immune disorders.

For these people, a third dose is needed to achieve the level of protection most receive from the primary series of two doses. Dr. Henry said this group of people will receive a text or email directly from ImmunizeBC. [Learn more.](#)

COVID-19 vaccine update

As of Sept. 17, 86.5% of eligible people 12 and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 78.9% received their second dose.

Since December 2020, the Province has administered 7,675,294 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines.

Ministry of Health update

In the Sept. 17 statement on B.C.'s COVID-19 response, 768 new cases were reported with 83 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 177,954 since the start of the pandemic. There are 6,031 active cases of COVID-19 across B.C. currently.

11 new COVID-19 related death were recorded, while 298 people are currently hospitalized, with 135 of these cases receiving treatment in ICU/critical care. The total number of individuals who have passed away due to COVID-19 is 1,888.

A reminder that people can get their BC Vaccine Card online at 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 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 upcoming pop-up clinics, please visit 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.

Weather alert - heavy rain and strong winds on Friday, Sept. 17, for communities in south coastal B.C.

Environment and Climate Change Canada's weather alerts cover the following areas:

Metro Vancouver; the Fraser Valley; Howe Sound; the Sunshine Coast; Whistler; and east, west and inland Vancouver Island.

The Province is urging British Columbians to prepare and be diligent as heavy rain and strong winds are forecasted. The River Forecast Centre also warns of high stream flow and potential flooding for parts of Vancouver Island and the South Coast.

Learn more [here](#).

Vancouver Coastal Health to rename George Pearson Centre

Starting this fall, Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) will engage with local community partners and stakeholders to rename George Pearson Centre, a care home in south Vancouver for residents with complex medical and physical conditions.

Earlier this year, a community group advised VCH that George S. Pearson lobbied against the rights and freedoms of racialized people in the 1940s, and requested VCH consider a more culturally appropriate name for George Pearson Centre.

The beliefs and actions of George S. Pearson do not align with VCH's core values: We care for everyone, we are always learning, and we strive for better results. With full support from the VCH Board of Directors, VCH has initiated a renaming process for GPC to better reflect its values and the diverse communities it serves.

Over the coming months, VCH will engage with community partners and stakeholders to ensure a transparent, respectful and collaborative process to choose a new name for the site.

Read the entire article [here](#).

VCH recognized for health-care information accessibility

VCH has been recognized by the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) for its Translation and Interpretation project.

In the fall of 2020, VCH initiated a review of translation practices with the goal of supporting culturally-safe care and improving access to health information. Through engagement with relevant communities and stakeholders, VCH sought to identify ways to reduce language barriers and facilitate better understanding and distribution of written materials, as well as highlight opportunities to make improvements in the short and long term.

Watch the presentation [video](#) for the award.

We want to thank our community and internal partners, including MOSAIC, S.U.C.C.E.S.S., Immigrant Services Society of BC (ISSBC), South Vancouver Neighbourhood House (SVNH), Collingwood Neighbourhood House, InterCultural Online Health Network (iCON), other community and settlement organizations, CityHive, our Translation and Interpretation Working Group members, Indigenous Health, VCH staff, CEAN members, Mustel Research, and members of general public. We continue to appreciate all your support and ongoing commitment to promoting accessibility in healthcare.

Read the entire article [here](#).

Community Engagement Opportunities

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

- [**Interviews- Patient Questionnaire for the Development of the Health Navigator Role for the Neuromuscular Diseases Unit**](#)
Vancouver Coastal Health is reaching out to patients with neuromuscular conditions (e.g. spinal muscular atrophy, nerve injury, amyloid neuropathy, chronic inflammatory demyelinating polyneuropathy, myasthenia gravis, inflammatory myopathy, muscular dystrophy) to collect their feedback in order to further develop the Health Navigator role for the Neuromuscular Diseases Unit at Vancouver General Hospital.
- [**Interviews - Improving patient discharges at Lions Gate Hospital**](#)
The Lions Gate Hospital is looking for feedback for how to make patient discharges to their homes better after receiving care at the hospital.
- [**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 with the word "unsubscribe". Thank you.