

LATEST UPDATE – SEPTEMBER 24, 2021

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

COVID-19 vaccine update

As of Sept. 24, 87.5% of eligible people 12 and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 80.0% received their second dose. Since December 2020, the Province has administered 7,771,314 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines.

Ministry of Health update

In the Sept. 24 statement on B.C.'s COVID-19 response, 743 new cases were reported with 111 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 182,541 since the start of the pandemic. There are 5,979 active cases of COVID-19 across B.C. currently.

Seven new COVID-19 related death were recorded, while 319 people are currently hospitalized, with 149 of these cases receiving treatment in ICU/critical care. The total number of individuals who have passed away due to COVID-19 is 1,922.

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.

Safety of COVID-19 vaccines and pregnancy

Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, [addressed concerns](#) regarding vaccinations for those planning to get pregnant, or if they are pregnant or breast-feeding.

COVID-19 vaccines have been recommended by the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists here in Canada, by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization, and by similar groups around the world. All vaccines that are approved for use in Canada are not only safe, but recommended for people who are pregnant, people who are thinking of getting pregnant, and people who are breast-feeding.

For more information on receiving a vaccine when pregnant or breastfeeding, visit the [BC Centre for Disease Control](#) webpage.

COVID-19 notification in school settings

Dr. Henry also [announced](#) that parents, families and staff will be notified of COVID-19 exposures in their school. She assured parents that if their child has been exposed to COVID-19, they will be notified. She pointed out it does take time to follow up on each individual case and that sometimes can take longer than expected.

Vaccination clinics at Langara College and Vancouver Community College for students and general public

New drop-in clinics are announced and in time with the beginning of the post-secondary school year. Post-secondary students and the general public can get their first or second doses at the following colleges:

Langara College

Drop-in clinic - open to students, faculty, staff and the public.
T-Building Gallery – 100 W 49th Ave., Vancouver, B.C.
Sept. 28 & 29, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Vancouver Community College – Broadway Campus

Drop-in clinic - open to students, faculty, staff and the public.
VCC Building B – 1120 E 7th Ave, Vancouver, B.C.
Sept. 28, 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

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.

VCH immunization team onboard with their vaccine mission

In August, a small team of immunizers from Vancouver Coastal (VCH) had been boarding the giant freighters that dot English Bay and Vancouver Harbour with the mission to immunize as many seafarers with the COVID-19 vaccine as possible.

Since the campaign began, the team had embarked 10 ships, immunizing 120 sailors and crew members from across the globe including, the Philippines, China, Korea, India and Ukraine. "To be able to deliver a vaccine that is so remarkably safe and effective to these people who are so grateful and excited to receive it, it's just awesome," said Paul Maximus, a member of the seafaring vaccine team. Paul noted that these ships have often bounced from port-to-port with Canada being the only country offering the vaccine to crew.

Read the entire story [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.