

oneVCH COVID-19 Bulletin

February 25, 2021

COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAM

What's coming up next ...

Clarification about eligibility criteria

With increasing supply of vaccine being delivered to B.C. each week, we are now able to start vaccinating more priority groups. Appointments are now available for all staff and medical staff who provide direct, in-person and hands-on care in both acute and community settings. Family physicians, nurse practitioners and medical specialists in the VCH region have now also been invited to book appointments.

Please check your VCH email inbox for a memo with information about booking an appointment. If you are not able to secure an appointment this week, more will be offered in the coming weeks — we appreciate your patience and understanding as we expand vaccine eligibility.

Eligibility requirements:

Appointments are available for physicians, nurses, and allied health staff employed by a health authority who provide direct, in-person and hands-on care. This includes medical residents and health-care students.

Vaccines are not available during this phase for allied health staff not employed by a health authority. At this time we are also not offering vaccine to corporate, administrative, housekeeping, food services, maintenance and other support staff, including unit clerks, program assistants, medical office assistants and other non-clinical staff. If you book an appointment but are not eligible at this time, you will be turned away at the clinic.

Details on mass immunization clinics for older seniors and Indigenous Elders to be announced on Monday

Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, announced on Tuesday that further details about immunization for seniors and Indigenous Elders will be released on Monday, March 1. The province has been working since January to identify the mix of strategies they will use to ensure they reach everyone in these populations. The province and the health authorities aim to have all systems in place to ensure this process goes as smoothly as possible. Specifically, seniors 80 years of age and older, and Indigenous Elders 65 and over, can expect to receive vaccination information in the next two weeks.

New Provincial Health Order about additional occupations that will be part of immunizer workforce

A mass immunization program on a scale larger than any other in recent history will require a significant amount of staff to carry it out. Dr. Henry announced that the province has been looking at recruiting larger numbers of staff to provide immunizations as well as administrative support. A new Provincial Health Order has been issued to expand the workforce that will be able to participate in the immunization process across the province. The Order will allow a number of occupations to be able to do so, including pharmacists, dentists, midwives, paramedics, and retired nurses.

Important reminder: [Provincial Health Officer \(PHO\) orders](#) and Public Health guidelines, including strict adherence to personal protective equipment use, remain in place for everyone, even if you have received the vaccine.

To date, 239,833 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in B.C., 68,157 of which are second doses. Immunization data is available on the B.C. Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) [COVID-19 dashboard](#).

For the most up-to-date information on the vaccination rollout, please visit our [VCH intranet site](#).

[Vaccination program updates and more →](#)

oneVCH COVID-19 VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

Join us for the next oneVCH COVID-19 town hall on March 4

You are invited to participate in a special virtual town hall to mark the one-year milestone of the COVID-19 pandemic on **Thursday, March 4 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

To join the virtual town hall, please click on the link below:

[VANCOUVER COASTAL HEALTH COVID-19 TOWN HALL UPDATE – MARCH 4 2021 11:00 AM WEBCAST](#)

MEDICAL STAFF COVID-19 (PHYSICIANS, MIDWIVES, NURSE PRACTITIONERS & DENTISTS)

Q&A: Post COVID-19 recovery clinic

Q: For the new post COVID-19 prolonged follow-up clinic, the criteria for referral states that one must have had a positive COVID-19 test, why is this?

A: Right now we're asking for a positive or some confirmatory test for COVID-19 and that also helps with our research endeavours going on to ensure it wasn't some other viral illness or similar disease leading to their actual symptoms.

We've identified this group also as a priority population. Part of this is due to capacity; part of it is to ensure our research is focused on people who have confirmed COVID. There may be an opportunity later on after the priority population has been seen. The other aspect is creating educational materials that are patient specific and accessible to anyone else as well as education for primary care physicians in the community.

Click on the links for more information about the [Post COVID-19 recovery clinic](#) and the [Rapid Access to Specialist Consultation \(RACE\)](#) line.

Medical Staff Q&A were generated during the Feb. 16 Medical Staff Forum. The audio-visual recording of the previous forums, as well as the full transcripts and a running list of Q&A will be available shortly on the [intranet site](#).

UPDATE ON NEW AND EXISTING COVID-19 CASES (as of February 25, 2021)

- There were 395 new cases of COVID-19 today for a total of 78,673 cases in the province.
- Active cases: 4,489
 - Vancouver Coastal Health: 86 new cases
 - Fraser: 207 new cases
 - Interior Health: 37 new cases
 - Island Health: 24 new cases
 - Northern Health: 41 new cases
 - People who normally reside outside of Canada: 0 new cases
- 228 hospitalized
- 62 currently admitted to ICU
- 72,781 recovered
- 10 new deaths and 1,348 confirmed deaths in total

[Click here to see more updates on the BC COVID-19 Dashboard](#)

Incident and prevalent cases of COVID-19 in hospital and critical care across VCH/PHC

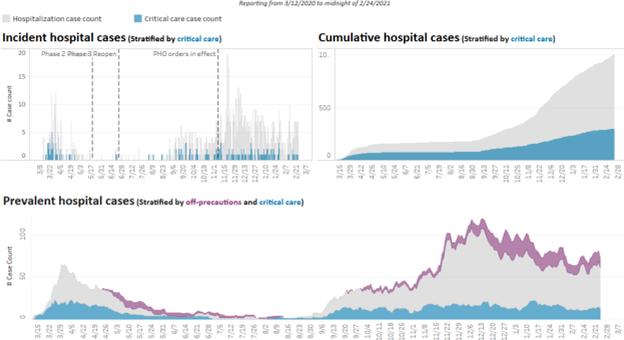
Reporting from 3/12/2020 to midnight of 2/24/2021

	New Cases (Since Yesterday)	Today's Total Cases	Cumulative Cases
Hospitalized Patients	4 New hospitalized cases	73 Total hospitalized cases	1,008 Cumulative total hospitalized cases
Critical Care Patients	0 New critical care cases	15 Total critical care cases	297 Cumulative total critical care cases
Critical Care Patients on Ventilator	0 New ventilation cases	9 Total ventilation cases	150 Cumulative total ventilation cases
Discharged / Off COVID Precautions Patients	10 Discharged case(s) from yesterday	12 Current hospitalized off COVID precautions cases	799 Cumulative total discharged cases
Readmission		4 Current hospitalized readmitted cases	56 Cumulative readmitted cases
Death		2 Death(s) from yesterday	140 Cumulative total deaths

Note: 1) Beginning February 22, 2021, the attached report will be validated on Mondays and Thursdays. During the rest of the week, the accuracy of this report will rely on data availability in the Decision Support Data Warehouse. 2) The patient hospitalization status and location is based on their midnight status and may be subject to change due to data refresh. 3) Patient case attribution using an exit collection date if patient case attributed before collection; case attributed using admission date if collection date was before patient admission. 4) Cumulative cases refer to number of distinct patients. 5) Excludes 1) 2 additional COVID patients discharged before March 12, 2020. 1) 125 + 24 are 6) Dashboard only includes COVID+ patients who were hospitalized within 30 days of first result notification date.

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COVID-19 DATA

Long-term care, assisted living and independent living sites

COVID-19 data is available on the B.C. Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) website, including outbreak and case information. The [February 25, 2021 weekly COVID-19 long-term care outbreak report](#) is also available on the website.

The website also includes situation reports, maps of cases in the province and more.

[Click here to go to the BCCDC site →](#)

KEY LINKS

[Text Alerts: Physician sign up keyword: COVID19](#)

[Text Alerts: Staff sign up keyword: ALERT](#)

[Staff supports during COVID-19](#)

[Medical staff resources during COVID-19](#)

REMINDER ABOUT MEDIA

If you receive a media inquiry, please contact our Public Affairs team immediately for support. Our media line is 604-202-2012 or email media@vch.ca.

COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS?

[Please click here to submit questions or comments on our VCH COVID-19 intranet page.](#)

KEY LINKS

- [BC COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool](#)
- [Wellness Together Canada: Mental Health and Substance Use Support](#)
- [COVID-19 Multilingual Resources](#)
- [Coping with COVID: Additional Employee Wellness/EFAP services](#)
- [VCH Virtual Health website](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control \(IPAC\) website:](#) Staff resources on how to assess, test and treat patients and protect patients and staff.
- [Infection Prevention and Control Policy:](#) Ministry of Health
- [VCH Regional Pandemic Outbreak Response Plan:](#) VCH Communicable Disease Control website
- [VCH Intranet:](#) COVID-19 updates

REGIONAL AND LOCAL EOC ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES

- [COVID-19 VCH-PHC Regional EOC](#)
- [COVID-19 Vancouver Acute EOC](#)
- [COVID-19 Vancouver Community EOC](#)
- [COVID-19 Coastal EOC](#)
- [COVID-19 Richmond EOC](#)
- [COVID-19 Providence Health Care \(PHC\) EOC](#)

The bulletins are distributed on Mondays and Thursdays. Past bulletins are available on the [COVID-19 section of our VCH staff intranet](#).

