

LATEST UPDATE – OCTOBER 15, 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 Oct. 15, 89.0% of eligible people 12 and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 83.0% have received their second dose. Since December 2020, the Province has administered 8,025,356 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines.

Ministry of Health update

In the Oct. 15 statement on B.C.'s COVID-19 response, 667 new cases were reported with 75 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 196,433 since the start of the pandemic. There are 5,128 active cases of COVID-19 across B.C. currently.

In the past 24 hours, 13 new COVID-19 related death were recorded, while 367 people are currently hospitalized, with 152 of these cases receiving treatment in ICU/critical care. The total number of individuals who have passed away due to COVID-19 is 2,055.

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.

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.

Updated Long-term Care and Seniors' Assisted Living Visitor Guidance

Starting this week, all visitors to long-term care, assisted-living and acute-care facilities must demonstrate they are fully immunized to enter a facility.

- Visitors are required to show proof of vaccination prior to entry, including just to pass through the facility to access an outdoor space. Proof of vaccination includes an electronic or a printed copy proof; issued by the government in the form of a QR code, accessible [here](#).
- Visitations for non-vaccinated visitors can occur outside the facility and masks are required at all times.
- Medical masks are required by all in facilities regardless of vaccination status.

Exceptions related to compassionate care such as end-of-life, will be considered on an individual case basis. Those who require the exceptions should contact the facility care director.

The entire guidance document can be read [here](#).

Mask mandate expands to everyone over the age of five

Dr. Bonnie Henry adjusted the province's mask mandate to requiring everyone five years of age and older to wear a mask in all indoor public spaces. She noted young people are already wearing masks in the K to 12-school system. Dr. Henry thanked young people for adapting to the changing mandate and for keeping their families safe.

Vaccine registration opens for children ages five to 11

Dr. Henry said the province is getting ready to provide COVID-19 vaccines to youth five to 11 years of age as soon as they are approved for use by Health Canada, adding the vaccine could be available to that age group by early November.

In the meantime, parents can now pre-register children through the provincial registration system [here](#). Notification of eligibility to book an appointment will be provided as soon as these vaccines are approved for use by Health Canada and the program is set up in B.C.

Mental health resources

October is Mental Health Awareness Month. Throughout the month, we will be highlighting some of VCH's mental health programs and services as well as [mental health resources](#) available to community members. Learn more via vch.ca/about-us/news and on our social media channels. (Find @VCHHealthcare on [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)).

Community engagement opportunities

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

- [Tertiary Mental Health Substance Use Mandate Review](#)
VCH is reviewing the Tertiary Mental Health Substance Use mandate in order to make improvements to the program. The review seeks input from up to 20 persons with lived or living experience (either personal lived experience or as a family member / caregiver) of the tertiary mental health and substance use services at VCH.
- [Feedback Survey - Pre-surgery kit for patients](#)
VCH's Enhanced Recovery After Surgery program is looking for feedback on a card that will be included in a pre-surgery kit. The card is intended to briefly explain the content in the

pre-surgery kit while highlighting the key research based components that will aid in their preparation and recovery from surgery.

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.