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

Happy holidays from VCH
With the holidays approaching, we express our deepest gratitude for community partners, who offer critical supports to VCH and populations across the health authority. We sincerely appreciate your collective support and look forward to continuing our partnership in the New Year.

COVID-19 vaccine update
As of Thursday, Dec. 16, 2021, 86.8% (4,327,774) of eligible people five and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 82.5% (4,110,723) have received their second dose.

In addition, 91.6% (4,245,964) of eligible people 12 and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, 88.7% (4,110,675) received their second dose and 14% (660,784) have received a third dose.

Also, 92.0% (3,978,487) of all eligible adults in B.C. have received their first dose, 89.2% (3,857,097) received their second dose and 15% (660,033) have received a third dose.

Since December 2020, the Province has administered 9,067,590 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Pfizer Pediatric COVID-19 vaccines.

Ministry of Health update
In the Dec. 16 statement on B.C.’s COVID-19 response, 753 new cases were reported with 240 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 224,998 since the start of the pandemic. There are 3,878 active cases of COVID-19 across B.C. currently.

In the past 24 hours, three new COVID-19 deaths were recorded, while 184 individuals are currently in hospital and 70 of those are receiving treatment in ICU/critical care. The total number of individuals who have passed away due to COVID-19 is 2,396.

Omicron arrives in B.C.
This week, Provincial Health Officer (PHO) Dr. Bonnie Henry confirmed the Omicron variant has arrived in the province, with the majority of cases to date found in the Fraser Health and Vancouver Costal Health regions. "We have transmission in the community now and we are learning more and more from the global community about what that means," she said.
Dr. Henry cautioned that people should not gather with those who are unvaccinated or whose vaccination status is not clear. Masks, proper ventilation and physical distancing remain important to stem the spread of Covid-19 and its variants.

**Actions being taken to confirm vaccination, ensure accuracy of vaccine records**

Letters will be mailed to 1,715 people who have submitted their personal vaccine record(s) into the Provincial Immunization Registry without success, encouraging them to get vaccinated at the earliest opportunity, said Ministry of Health officials in a press release.

Records entered into the registry are reviewed using strict processes to prevent fraud and to ensure that people who are entered into the provincial system have been vaccinated. Records that are submitted and are suspected to be fraudulent are being reported to law enforcement.

**B.C.’s vaccination effort boosted by community pharmacies**

More than 350 pharmacies in 80 communities throughout the province are now administering vaccines, with another approximately 700 pharmacies expected to join by mid-January 2022.

The addition of the pharmacies makes it easier and convenient for British Columbians to book a COVID-19 vaccine with their local participating pharmacies.

By early 2022, pharmacies will deliver the majority of booster shots for everyone eligible through the Get Vaccinated registration and booking system.

Read more here.

**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, but appointments are required for children aged five to 11 years old, and for booster or third 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 asked to register on the provincial system to ensure they receive an alert once they are eligible to book their second or booster 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.

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.
Taking care this winter

Winter can be an exciting time of year, but it also comes with an increase in people visiting the emergency department. After another extraordinary year, our health facilities continue to be safe places for patients. For critical, life-threatening conditions, please call 9-1-1 or go to the nearest emergency department. For other non-life-threatening matters, there are a number of options to seek care during the winter season.

Learn more about where to go for the right care and for tips for staying safe and healthy this winter.

Community engagement opportunities

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

- **Mental Health & Substance Use Services - Dialectical Behavioral Therapy (DBT) Intake Process Review**
  - We are encouraging individuals with Borderline Personality Disorder or with traits of Borderline Personality Disorder, who have been looking to access or who have accessed the Dialectical Behaviour Therapy program at VCH Mental Health & Substance Outpatient Services, to complete the short survey below. We are also encouraging input from family members of prospective/current clients.

- **Become a Mental Health & Substance Use Interview Panel Advisor**
  - The Client and Family Support and Involvement Team for Vancouver Acute, Community & Regional Tertiary are seeking a number of client and family advisors that can be part of leadership interview panels in all of our Vancouver Mental Health and Substance Use areas: Vancouver Community, Vancouver Acute, and Regional Tertiary.

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/](http://www.bccdc.ca/)
For community engagement opportunities at VCH, see: [https://engage.vch.ca/](https://engage.vch.ca/)
COVID-19 vaccination resource toolkit

- COVID-19 vaccine registration poster

- Vaccine safety information

- Aftercare information

- COVID-19 vaccine information sessions hosted by S.U.C.C.E.S.S. and VCH (Cantonese and Mandarin)

- COVID-19 vaccine Q&A with Dr. Ray Chaboyer

- COVID-19 vaccine info session by VCH Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. Patricia Daly

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.

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Land Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge that our places of work and the Vancouver Coastal Health facilities lie on the traditional, unceded homelands of the fourteen First Nation Communities of the Heiltsuk, Kitasoo-Xai’xais, Lil’wat, Musqueam, N’Quatqua, Nuxalk, Samahquam, Sechelt, Skatin, Squamish, Tla’amin, Tsleil-Waututh, Wuikinuxv, and Xa’xtsa.