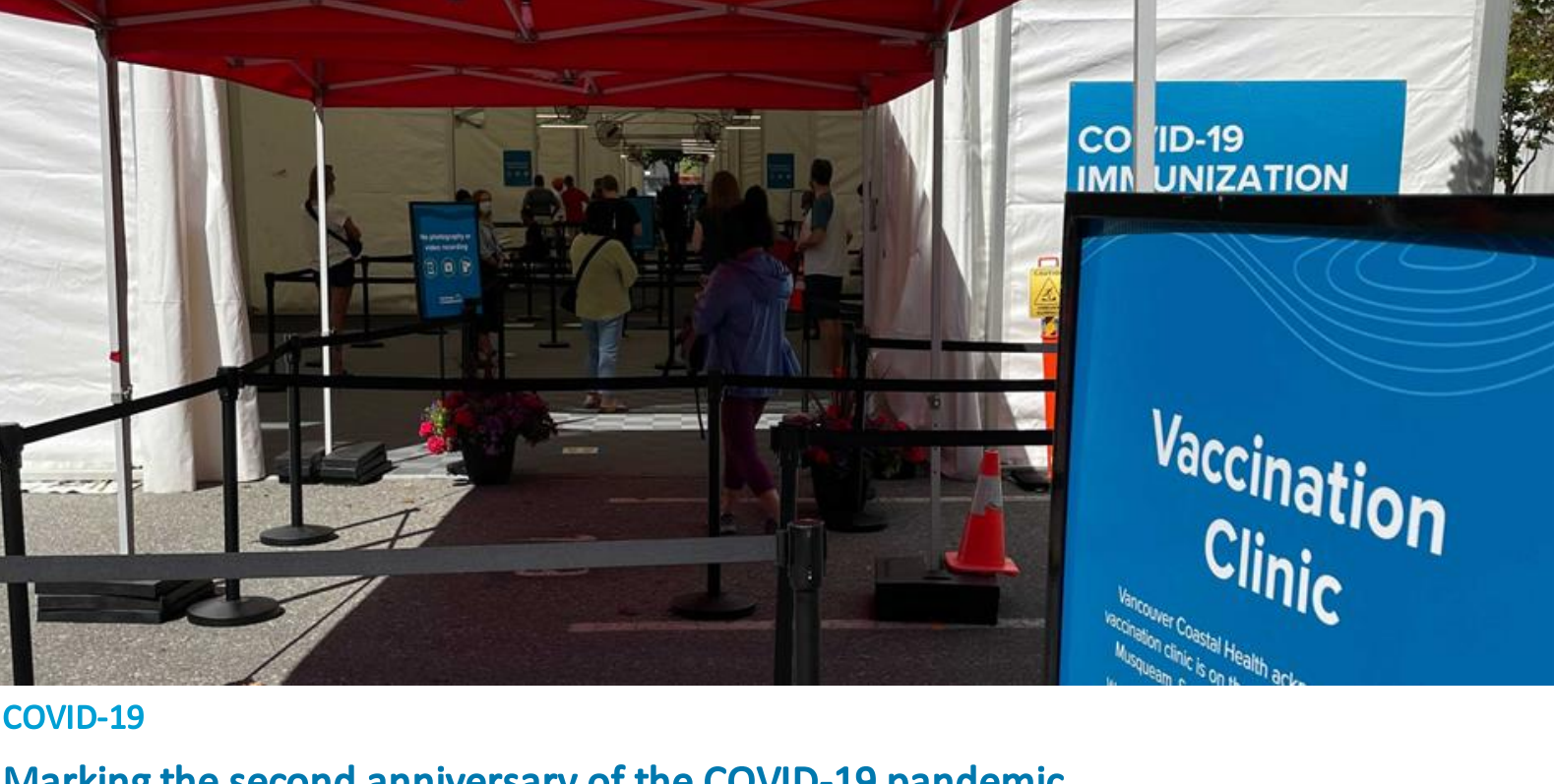


oneVCH COVID-19 Bulletin

March 17, 2022



COVID-19

Marking the second anniversary of the COVID-19 pandemic

Mar. 11 marked the second anniversary of the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, as declared by the World Health Organization.

It has been a difficult two years for us all. We would like to take moment to remember the lives we have lost during the pandemic and share our condolences to their family and friends. We would also like to recognize and acknowledge the generosity of expertise, time and spirit provided by you, our health-care workers, during this very challenging time.

[Read the full story →](#)



COVID-19 research

Removing barriers to liver transplantation in COVID-19-positive patients

Sometimes you have to push boundaries to advance medical science.

That is exactly what Dr. Eric Yoshida, a principal investigator with Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute and the former medical director of the BC Liver Transplant Program, and his team did in 2021 when they successfully completed an orthotopic liver transplant into a young patient with active COVID-19. It was the first successful instance of such a transplant in Canada and only the second one recorded worldwide.

The [resulting case report](#) published in the August 2021 edition of *Transplant Direct* filled a knowledge void for clinicians whose COVID-19-positive patients urgently required transplants. Previously, clinicians would not have attempted transplant surgery in this circumstance due to the lack of published scientific literature on the subject.

[Read the full story →](#)

COVID-19 rapid tests

Rapid tests available for people 40+ at B.C. pharmacies

Starting Mar. 15, 2022, rapid antigen test kits will be available through community pharmacies to people aged 40 and older.

Eligible individuals can pick up one kit containing five tests every 28 days from participating pharmacies at no cost. Individuals must present their personal health number when picking up the kit or, if others are picking up kits on their behalf, in addition to the individual's name and personal health number, date of birth must also be supplied.

[Read the full story →](#)



COVID-19 testing

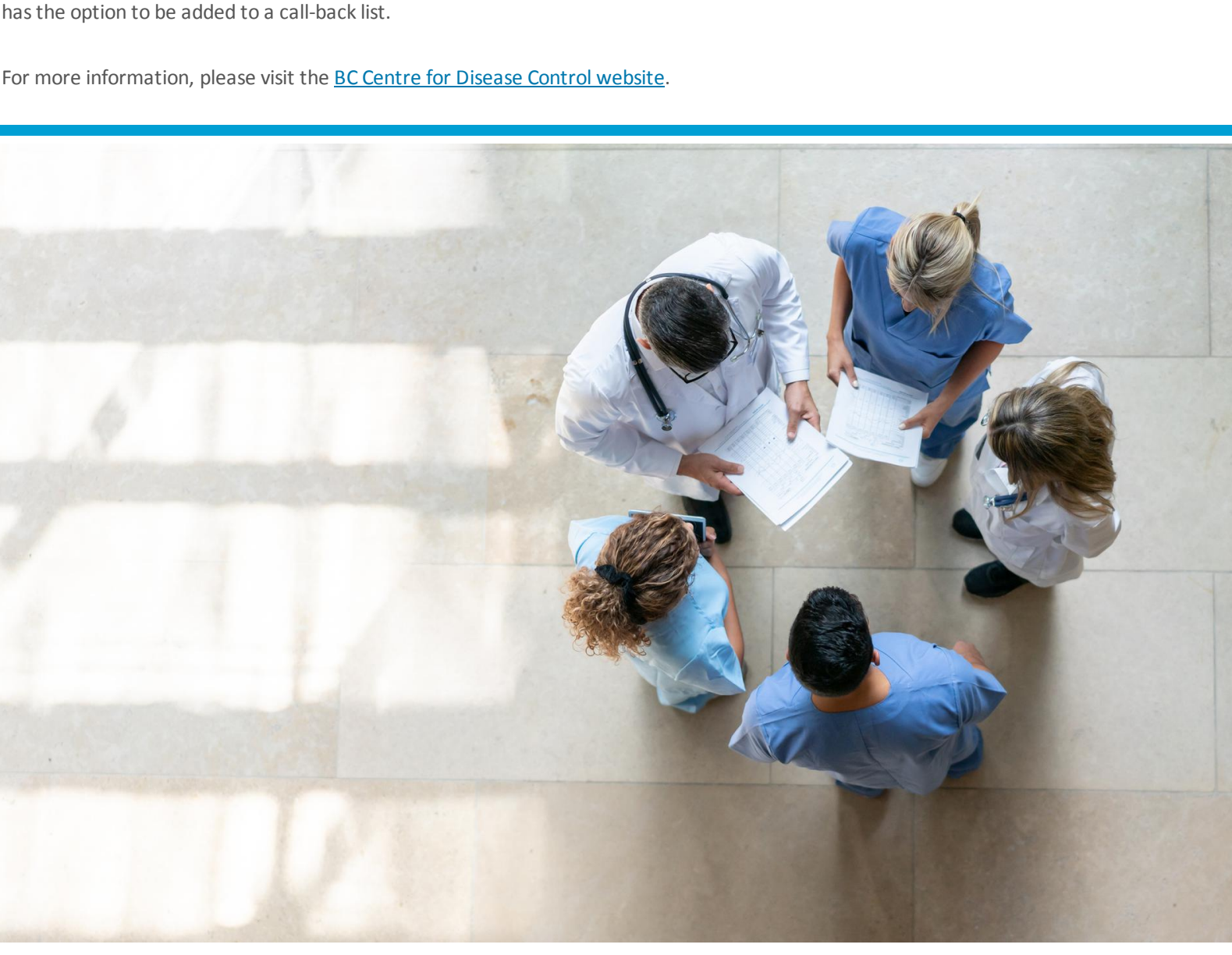
COVID-19 results line updated to improve service for British Columbians

The BC COVID-19 Results line has been updated to improve service for British Columbians seeking COVID-19 test results. The phone number, 1-833-707-2792, can now provide COVID-19 test results 24 hours a day through an automated service.

To access automated test results over the phone, callers will be required to provide their Personal Health Number (PHN), date of birth and date of test. Callers may receive the following results through the automated service: Positive, Negative, Indeterminate, Cancelled or Pending.

If an individual does not have a PHN, requires assistance or has a result that requires interpretation, they will be transferred to an agent. Agents are available between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., 7 days a week. If calling outside of business hours or there is a long queue, the caller has the option to be added to a call-back list.

For more information, please visit the [BC Centre for Disease Control website](#).



Indigenous health

iCON: Culturally safe, quality virtual health care for Indigenous people and their families

Join UBC's interCultural Online health Network (iCON) and VCH Indigenous Health for the upcoming Indigenous Health Round. This free online, interactive health round is in partnership with First Nations Health Authority (FNHA).

Presenters: Jon Rabeneck, Education and Training Specialist of Primary Care, First Nations Health Authority and Laura Baracaldo, Registered Social Worker and Care Coordinator, Virtual Substance Use and Psychiatry Service, First Nations Health Authority.

Date and time: Mar. 25, 12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Topic: Culturally safe, quality virtual health care for Indigenous people and their families

[REGISTER HERE](#)

The Indigenous Health Round is open to healthcare providers, allied health-care professionals, Indigenous traditional practitioners, health administrators, health policy makers, health-care worker, and affiliated faculty, staff and students. For more information, please visit the [iCON website](#).

Professional development

Course: Physical rehabilitation and return to work for the post-COVID-19 patient

The BC ECHO for Post-COVID-19 Recovery is a free virtual learning community of specialists and community health care providers who use instructive and case-based learning to improve care for patients recovering from symptoms post COVID-19.

Presenters: Dr. Jennifer Yao, Medical Manager, Acquired Brain Injury Program, G.F. Strong Rehab Centre and Amy Sangha, Physiotherapist, Fraser Health.

Date and time: Apr. 12, 12 p.m. - 1 p.m.

Topic: Physical rehabilitation and return to work for the post-COVID-19 patient

[REGISTER HERE](#)

For more details about the BC ECHO for Post-COVID-19 Recovery and future sessions, please visit our [website](#).

COVID-19

Q&A for medical staff (physicians, nurse practitioners, midwives & dentists)

Question: Is COVID-19 likely a trigger for autoimmune/inflammatory conditions? Are we seeing more rheumatoid arthritis and other conditions post COVID?

Answer: Similar to any virus, it can be a trigger for autoimmune/inflammatory conditions. It's not clear if we're seeing any more rheumatoid arthritis or other types of autoimmune conditions as a result of COVID-19. We have seen a fair number of individuals diagnosed with new connective tissue diseases. With that being said, we have to be careful that the correlation does not necessarily imply causation.

The question and answer were generated at the Feb. 16 Medical Staff Forum. The session slides and important links, as well as those from previous forums, will be available on the [VCH Medical Staff Intranet](#).

Medical staff forum

Upcoming medical staff forum to focus on planetary health; COVID-19

Join us for a presentation from Dr. Andrea MacNeill, Regional Medical Director for Planetary Health, Vancouver Coastal Health, on the environmental effects of the health-care industry and how medical staff can help make a positive impact. There will also be a COVID-19 update and live Q&A session.

Panelists: Dr. Chad Kim Sing (host), Dr. Ross Brown, Dr. Patty Daly, Dr. Andrea MacNeill and Dr. Titus Wong

Date and time: Apr. 20, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Topic: Planetary health and COVID-19 updates

[REGISTER HERE](#)

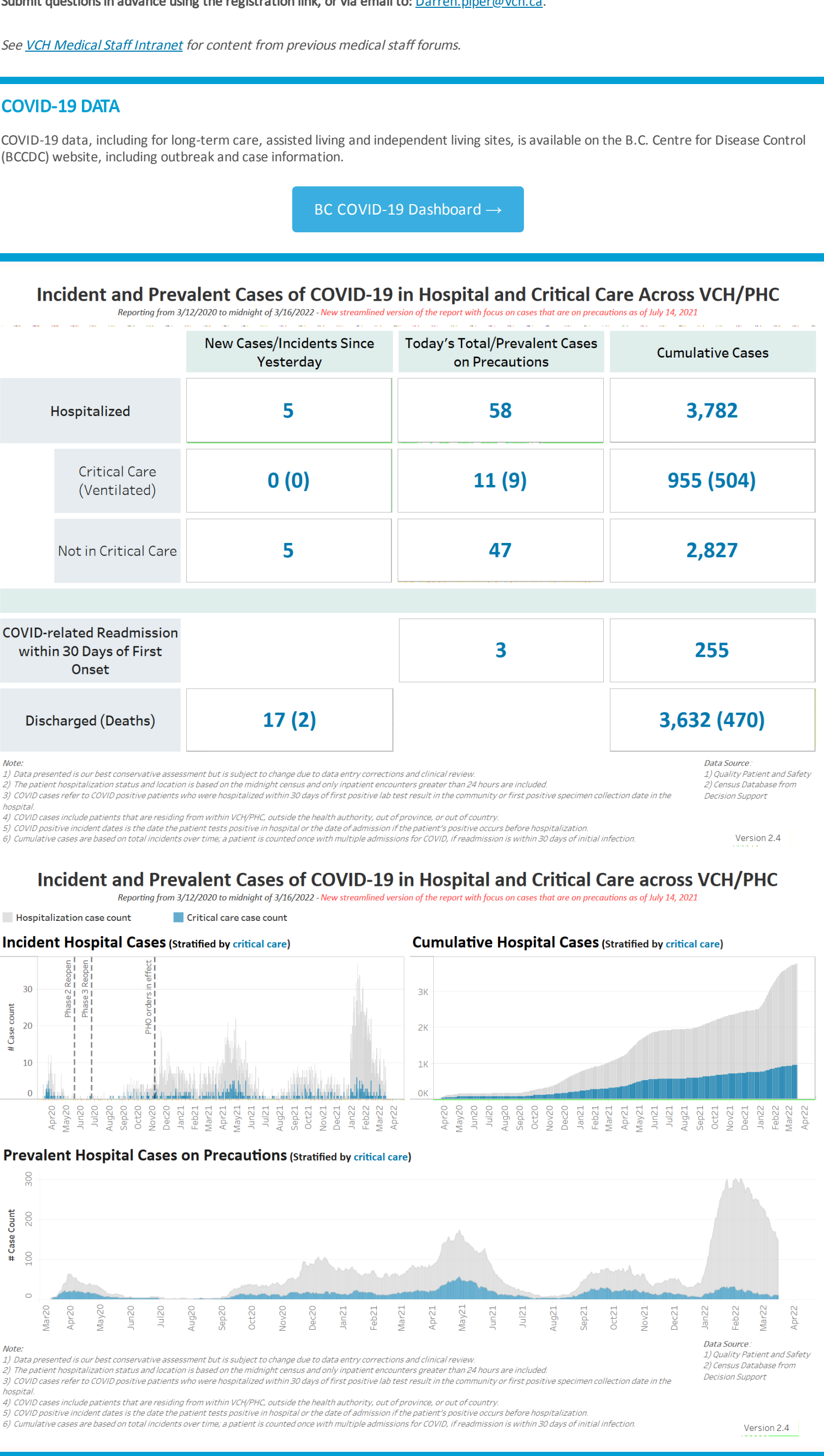
Submit questions in advance using the registration link, or via email to: Darren.piper@vch.ca.

See [VCH Medical Staff Intranet](#) for content from previous medical staff forums.

COVID-19 DATA

COVID-19 data, including for long-term care, assisted living and independent living sites, is available on the B.C. Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) website, including outbreak and case information.

[BC COVID-19 Dashboard →](#)



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](#)

TOOLS AND RESOURCES

- [BC COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment Tool](#)
- [Wellness Together Canada: Mental Health and Substance Use Support](#)
- [COVID-19 Multilingual Resources](#)
- [LifeWorks Employee and Family Assistance Program Services](#)
- [VCH Virtual Health website](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control \(IPC\) 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 EOC ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES

- [COVID-19 VCH-PHC Regional EOC](#)

COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS?

Please click [here to submit questions or comments](#).

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.

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