

LATEST UPDATE – Jan. 12, 2021

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

Ministry of Health Update

In yesterday's joint statement on B.C.'s COVID-19 response, Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, reported a total of 1,475 new COVID-19 cases over the three-day period. The total number of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in B.C. now stands at 58,107 since the start of the pandemic. There were 287 new cases reported in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region over the three-day period. There are 5,220 active cases of COVID-19 across B.C. currently.

Across the province, 22 new deaths were confirmed, while 358 people are currently hospitalized, with 72 of these cases receiving treatment in ICU/critical care. The total number of individual who have passed due to COVID-19 is 1,010.

COVID-19 Vaccination Update

Since the start of immunizations, 59,902 doses of vaccine have been delivered (not including yesterday's doses). That includes 48,533 of the 50,700 doses of the Pfizer vaccine that were received, and 11,369 of the 20,500 doses of Moderna vaccine. While the Moderna vaccine provides more flexibility to deploy to the more remote or isolated communities, including some First Nations communities, less Moderna vaccine has been administered. Logistically, it is more challenging because it does take much longer to get out to communities. More vaccine is expected to arrive this week.

Much thought and consideration have gone into the province's approach and delivery of COVID-19 vaccines. The approach is founded on scientific evidence, available supply of vaccines, highest populations at risk, and who is most impacted by the virus. The approach is to protect the most at-risk to prevent hospitalizations and deaths.

Today, Dr. Henry shared that the province will provide the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccines at day 35. This decision is based on extensive consultation and guidance from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI). Accordingly, the vaccine effectiveness after two weeks is over 90% for both the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines. Once the second dose of vaccine is administered, effectiveness rises from approximately 92% to between 94-95% for both vaccines. Clinical trial data shows that as individuals received their second dose between days 19-42, there were no discernible difference in effectiveness within that span of time. Recommended interval has been extended to 42 days by both NACI and World Health Organization (WHO). By starting the second doses at day 35, an additional 150,000 British Columbians can be protected.

Testing

Anyone in the VCH region with cold, influenza or COVID-19-like symptoms, however mild, can now be assessed for and get a COVID-19 test. Contact your physician or nurse practitioner's office, or a local community collection centre to arrange for a test. Phone numbers and locations of collection centres can be found by visiting: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing> or by calling 8-1-1. For more information and latest updates on COVID-19, follow the BC Centre for Disease Control on Twitter @CDCofBC or visit the website: <http://www.bccdc.ca/>.

Other Resources

To find the Provincial Health Officer's orders, visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

To see a map of **COVID-19 cases by local health area**, visit: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data>

For a listing of the **community exposure events**, go to: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/public-exposures>

For the **latest medical updates**, including case counts, prevention, risks and testing, visit: <http://www.bccdc.ca/>

For community engagement opportunities at VCH, see: <http://cean.vch.ca/members/current-opportunities/>