

## LATEST UPDATE – Feb. 19, 2021

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

### Ministry of Health update

In today's joint statement on B.C.'s COVID-19 response, Dr. Reka Gustafson, Deputy Provincial Health Officer, and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, reported 508 new cases.

The total number of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in B.C. now stands at 75,835 since the start of the pandemic. Of the new cases, 116 people were in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region.

Across the province, there were six new COVID-19 related deaths, while 217 people are currently hospitalized, with 61 of these cases receiving treatment in ICU/critical care. The total number of individuals who have passed away due to COVID-19 is 1,327. There are now 4,486 active cases of COVID-19 across B.C. currently.

There are 72 cases of the variants of concern in B.C. This includes 52 cases linked to the variant originally detected in the UK and 20 cases linked to the variant first identified in South Africa. Dr. Gustafson said because variants appear to spread more easily, there's less room for error. This makes it more important than ever to follow public health orders and to stay isolated if you're told to do so because of an exposure.

### Vaccination update

Since the start of immunizations, 192,942 vaccinations have been delivered in B.C. (not including today), with 36,923 of those being a second dose. Yesterday was a record day in B.C. with 12,251 people immunized. More than half of those were second doses.

Dr. Gustafson said the early evidence from the immunization of our elders living in long-term care is very encouraging. We are seeing a decline in outbreaks and an assessment of effectiveness shows there is substantial protection in the elderly from the vaccination. Vaccination rates for long-term care and assisted living are now posted on the BCCDC's [data](#) page.

Health Minister Adrian Dix discussed vaccinations for seniors 80-years and older. He said those who receive home support or are in independent living facilities, for example, can expect to be vaccinated in the first half of March and others in the second half of March. The Minister said more information – including details, websites and numbers to call – will be provided soon.

More information and immunization data is available through this page: [BCCDC](#)

### COVID-19 in Whistler

Based on epidemiological data, VCH continues to record a sustained reduction in COVID-19 transmission in Whistler compared to previous weeks. From Feb. 8 to Feb. 15, VCH identified 56 new cases of COVID-19 in Whistler and an additional six older cases were geographically identified as Whistler residents, for a total of 676 cases since Jan. 1, 2021. The majority of cases continue to be among young adults who reside in Whistler, with COVID-19 transmission occurring predominantly in household settings.

VCH advises Whistler residents and visitors to avoid social gatherings, to stay home while sick, to wash their hands regularly, and to maintain physical distance when in public. Those who have previously contracted and recovered from COVID-19 are also advised to continue to adhere to all public health guidance.

VCH asks any Whistler residents who are experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms, to complete the [BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) and to access testing services, if required. VCH continues to provide care and support to those who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the Whistler community. VCH remains grateful to Whistler community leaders, residents and local businesses for their ongoing support since the start of the pandemic.

### 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/>