

LATEST UPDATE – Feb. 26, 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 395 new cases.

The total number of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in B.C. now stands at 78,673 since the start of the pandemic. Of the new cases, 86 people were in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region.

Across the province, there were 10 new COVID-19 related deaths, while 228 people are currently hospitalized, with 62 of these cases receiving treatment in ICU/critical care. The total number of individuals who have passed away due to COVID-19 is 1,348. There are now 4,489 active cases of COVID-19 across B.C. currently.

There have been 16 new confirmed COVID-19 cases that are variants of concern in our province, for a total of 116 cases. Of the total cases, nine cases are active and the remaining people have recovered.

Dr. Henry said we are paying special attention to the variants of concern to better understand transmission patterns. The evidence has shown we need to continue doing what we have been doing and the precautions we are already taking are equally as effective with these variants.

Over the last month, Dr. Henry has been closely monitoring the number of new cases and our rates of transmission to better understand when B.C. can safely open up or whether we need to take additional measures, in terms of our public health restrictions and orders. The seven-day moving average which is one of indicators used to determine if we are bending the COVID-19 curve has increased recently which means we are not ready to safely open up.

With March break weeks away however, Dr. Henry and her colleagues are exploring options for young people to have safe opportunities. She is closely monitoring the transmission of COVID-19 across B.C. communities as we may be in different position then. She continues to recommend to stay local and to limit our number of contacts.

Vaccination update

Since the start of immunizations, 239,883 vaccinations have been delivered in B.C. (not including today), with 68,157 of those being a second dose.

With more vaccine increasingly available, the focus is being turned to our seniors aged 80 and older and our elders, who will be offered vaccines in March.

Details on how they can access their vaccine will be announced on Monday. Please watch for Monday's *VCH Community Partners Update* in your email inbox for that information.

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

Surgical renewal commitment

Since May 18th, 2020 more than 90% of those who had surgeries postponed due to COVID-19 have had their surgery. To date, 61,191 surgeries were completed in Vancouver Coastal Health, 70,352 surgeries were completed in Fraser Health, 47,723 surgeries were completed in Interior Health, 14,656 surgeries were completed in Northern Health, 53,513 surgeries were completed on Vancouver Island and 10,349 surgeries were completed in the Provincial Health Services Authority.

For the week of February 8 to 14, the verified number of surgeries is 7,324, which is 196 more surgeries than the same week last year.

COVID-19 in Whistler update

Based on epidemiological data, Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) recorded a further reduction in COVID-19 transmission in Whistler compared to previous reporting periods.

- From Feb. 16 to Feb. 21, VCH identified 26 new cases of COVID-19 in Whistler. This accounts for 36 fewer new cases recorded since the last reporting period (Feb. 8 – Feb. 15).
- There have been a total of 702 cases in Whistler since Jan. 1, 2021.
- Since Jan. 1, a total of 671 individuals have recovered from COVID-19 in Whistler.

The reported cases continue to be among young adults who reside in Whistler, with COVID-19 transmission occurring predominantly in household settings.

VCH continues to advise Whistler residents and visitors to avoid social gatherings with those outside of their immediate bubbles, 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 adhere to all public health guidance.

VCH asks any Whistler residents who experience 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 thankful to 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/>