

LATEST UPDATE – Mar. 9, 2021

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. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, reported 550 new cases.

The total number of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in B.C. now stands at 85,119 since the start of the pandemic. Of the new cases, 133 people were in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region.

Across the province, there were two new COVID-19 related deaths during the past three days, while 249 people are currently hospitalized, with 68 of these cases receiving treatment in ICU/critical care. The total number of individuals who have passed away due to COVID-19 is 1,393. There are now 4,869 active cases of COVID-19 across B.C. currently.

There have been 182 new confirmed COVID-19 cases that are variants of concern in our province, for a total of 576 cases. Of the total cases, 113 are active and the remaining people have recovered. This includes 530 cases of the B.1.1.7 (U.K.) variant, 33 cases of the B.1.351 (South Africa) variant and 13 cases of the P.1 (Brazil) variant.

Dr. Henry sounded a note of optimism saying she will look at reducing restrictions over the next few weeks. She said with our immunization program ramping up and our days soon getting warmer, we can start to look at a modified return of some of the activities that have been on pause. We know that a thoughtful, careful approach is required, which means we need to think of resuming activities as slowly turning a dial, instead of flicking a switch.

Dr. Henry is considering allowing small social gatherings, including youth sports and kid's camps. She is looking at opening in-person faith activities in the coming weeks. And B.C. colleges and universities are preparing for a full return to in-person classes on campus this fall.

Vaccination update

Since the start of immunizations, 343,381 vaccinations have been delivered in B.C. (not including today), with 86,938 of those being a second dose.

Dr. Henry said the first deliveries of the AstraZeneca-Serum Institute of India COVID-19 vaccines will arrive in our province in the next day or two. The vaccine will initially be used to address ongoing clusters and outbreaks in some communities.

Building on this momentum, the federal government approved a fourth COVID-19 vaccine on Friday. The newly approved Johnson & Johnson vaccine is another tool in our immunization program that will help accelerate protection of people throughout our province.

Dr. Henry says now, with every new person who is vaccinated, we can take comfort in knowing with each immunization, we all benefit – Elders, seniors, families and communities. Let's keep moving forward and doing our part to put COVID-19 behind us. More information and immunization data is available through this page: [BCCDC](#).

VCH's implementation of Phase 2 of B.C.'s Immunization – a reminder

The following first group of seniors and Indigenous peoples are now invited to call VCH's appointment booking phone line at **1-877-587-5767**:

- Seniors **born in 1931 or earlier (90 years of age and older)** who live in **Richmond, Vancouver, North Vancouver and West Vancouver**.
- Seniors **born in 1941 or earlier (80 years of age and older)** who live on the **Sunshine Coast, or in Powell River, Whistler, Squamish and Pemberton**.
- **Indigenous peoples** (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) **born in 1956 or earlier (65 years of age and older)** and Elders.

If you are eligible to book a vaccine appointment at VCH: call 1-877-587-5767. This toll free line is only for booking vaccine appointments. To prepare for your call, please have a pen and paper ready, personal health number, full name, date of birth, postal code and phone number.

VCH is appealing to family members, friends, neighbours and social services agencies to help reach eligible seniors in the community. Please share the COVID-19 vaccination information with people 80 years of age and older, or Indigenous peoples (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) 65 years of age and older along with Elders, to help them plan ahead for when the appointment booking phone line opens, according to age group.

The resource toolkit includes:

- **Information Bulletin:**

[\[English\]](#) | [\[Arabic\]](#) | [\[ASL\]](#) | [\[Chinese – Simplified\]](#) | [\[Chinese – Traditional\]](#) | [\[Farsi\]](#) | [\[French\]](#) | [\[Korean\]](#) | [\[Punjabi\]](#) | [\[Spanish\]](#) | [\[Tagalog\]](#) | [\[Vietnamese\]](#)

- **Website Information and FAQ:**

[\[English\]](#) | [\[Arabic\]](#) | [\[ASL\]](#) | [\[Chinese – Simplified\]](#) | [\[Chinese – Traditional\]](#) | [\[Farsi\]](#) | [\[French\]](#) | [\[Korean\]](#) | [\[Punjabi\]](#) | [\[Spanish\]](#) | [\[Tagalog\]](#) | [\[Vietnamese\]](#)

- **Information Poster:**

[\[English\]](#) | [\[Arabic\]](#) | [\[ASL\]](#) | [\[Chinese – Simplified\]](#) | [\[Chinese – Traditional\]](#) | [\[Farsi\]](#) | [\[French\]](#) | [\[Korean\]](#) | [\[Punjabi\]](#) | [\[Spanish\]](#) | [\[Tagalog\]](#) | [\[Vietnamese\]](#)

- **Information for Community Partners:**

[\[English\]](#) | [\[Arabic\]](#) | [\[ASL\]](#) | [\[Chinese – Simplified\]](#) | [\[Chinese – Traditional\]](#) | [\[Farsi\]](#) | [\[French\]](#) | [\[Korean\]](#) | [\[Punjabi\]](#) | [\[Spanish\]](#) | [\[Tagalog\]](#) | [\[Vietnamese\]](#)

- **Social Media Posts**

[\[English\]](#) | [\[Chinese – Simplified\]](#) | [\[Chinese – Traditional\]](#) | [\[Farsi\]](#) | [\[Korean\]](#) | [\[Punjabi\]](#) | [\[Tagalog\]](#) | [\[Vietnamese\]](#)

Thank you for your support and dedication to keeping seniors in our communities healthy and well as we move into this next phase of immunizations.

Vaccination appointment booking line – high call volume

On opening day, we saw an extremely high-volume of calls to our vaccine booking line and many callers experienced delays or were unable to get through to an attendant. We are working with our call centre to resolve this issue as quickly as possible.

Please only call the VCH appointment line if you're eligible to book your vaccination now. If you're not eligible at this time, you will not be able to book an appointment. And don't have more than one person call on behalf of an eligible senior.

If you get a busy tone, please be patient, call back later in the day or try the next day. All eligible seniors and Indigenous peoples 65 years of age and older, and Elders, who are eligible to book a vaccination appointment this week will be able to book one. Nobody will miss their chance.

VCH releases vaccination clinic locations

When you book your vaccination appointment, you will be directed to one of the following vaccination clinics. More information on the vaccine rollout and clinics can be found [here](#).

Vancouver:

- **ASK Friendship Centre**, 2177 W 42nd Ave, Vancouver, B.C. V6M 2B7
- **Creekside Community Centre**, 1 Athletes Way, Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 0C2
- **Italian Cultural Centre**, 3075 Slocan St., Vancouver, B.C. V5M 3E4
- **Kerrisdale Community Centre - Seniors Centre**, 5851 West Blvd., Vancouver, B.C. V6M 3W9
- **Sunset Community Centre**, 6810 Main St., Vancouver, B.C. V5X 0A1

- **Vancouver Community College Test Collection Site - Impark Lot #865**, 1155 E. Broadway, Vancouver, B.C. V5T 4V5
- **West End Community Centre**, 870 Denman St., Vancouver, B.C. V6G 2L8

North Vancouver and West Vancouver:

- **ICBC Test Collection Site**, 255 Lloyd Ave., North Vancouver, B.C. V7P 3G
- **West Vancouver Community Centre**, 2121 Marine Dr., West Vancouver, B.C. V7V 1K3
- **Bowen Island Community School**, 1041 Mt Gardner Rd., Bowen Island, B.C. V0N 1G1

Richmond:

- **East Richmond Community Hall**, 12360 Cambie Rd., Richmond, B.C. V6V 1G4
- **Jackson Lam Adult Day Centre / Austin Harris Assisted Living**, 5411 Moncton St., Richmond, B.C. V7E 0A8
- **River Rock Casino Resort (The Show Theatre)**, 8811 River Rd., Richmond, B.C. V6X 3P8

Sea-to-Sky

- **Pemberton Community Centre**, 7390 Cottonwood St., Pemberton, B.C. V0N 2L1
- **The 55 Activity Centre**, 1201 Village Green Way, Squamish, B.C. V8B 0N6
- **Whistler Conference Centre**, 4010 Whistler Way, Whistler, B.C. V0N 1B4

Sunshine Coast

- **Powell River Recreation Complex**, 5001 Joyce Ave., Powell River, B.C. V8A 5R2
- **Royal Canadian Legion Branch 109**, 747 Gibsons Way, Gibsons, B.C. V0N 1V9
- **Royal Canadian Legion Branch 112**, 12829 Lillies Lake Rd., Madeira Park, B.C. V0N 2H1
- **Sechelt Seniors Activity Centre**, 5604 Trail Ave., Sechelt, B.C. V0N 3A3

Central Coast

- **Bella Coola General Hospital**, 1025 Elcho St., Bella Coola, B.C. V0T 1C0

VCH vaccination clinics: Indigenous focused

- **Lu'ma Medical Centre**, 2970 Nanaimo St., Vancouver, B.C. V5N 5G3
- **Vancouver Aboriginal Health Society**, 449 E Hastings St. Vancouver, B.C. V6A 1P7

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/>