

LATEST UPDATE – April 27, 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 2,491 new cases during the weekend reporting period. Of the new cases, 466 people were in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region.

The total number of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in B.C. now stands at 126,249 since the start of the pandemic. There are 8,199 active cases of COVID-19 across B.C. currently.

Across the province, there were 17 new COVID-19 related deaths, while 484 people are currently hospitalized, with 158 of these cases receiving treatment in ICU/critical care. The total number of individuals who have passed away due to COVID-19 is 1,571.

Minister Dix says the province continues to monitor hospitalizations. The number of base beds that are currently vacant has increased since April 21, from 719 to 912 across the hospital system. And the number of critical care beds that are vacant has increased from 95 to 131. While these numbers will shift, they are a reflection of the actions the province has taken to ensure health care workers have the support they need and that hospitals remain safe, open and available for you.

Since the start of the pandemic in March of 2020, the province has been working with the BC Coroners Service office to establish a protocol that includes COVID-19 assessment for a potential infection with COVID-19 in all sudden unexpected death investigations across B.C. The Coroner's investigation can take several weeks to months to complete, depending on the complexity of the situation. Dr. Henry says B.C. has had several hundred deaths investigated by the BC Coroners Service since March 2020, and a very small number of them have been determined to be due to or related to COVID-19.

Dr. Henry also addressed concerns about sharing of personal health information when people get their vaccine. Any information gathered is personal health information and is protected. It is not provided to any other part of government.

COVID-19 vaccine update

Since the start of immunizations, 1,635,372 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca-SII COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in B.C. In total, 36 per cent of all eligible British Columbians have been vaccinated.

To date, B.C. has received 1,164,930 doses of the Pfizer vaccine, administering 1,124,468 doses. The province is expecting the next supply of Pfizer this week. With the Moderna vaccine, B.C. has received 354,800 doses and administered 309,485 doses. The federal government says more would be coming in the month of May. With AstraZeneca vaccine, 188,000 doses have been distributed through the pharmacy system. B.C. received 314,700 doses with 201,419 of those doses administered by the end of last week.

Canada is expecting its first shipment of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine this week. Dr. Henry says that B.C. should be receiving the vaccine soon after and that the province is already developing plans for its use. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is given in a single dose and is refrigerator-stable, which provides more flexibility. Dr. Henry stated that the province hopes to administer some of this vaccine to those who may be harder to reach for their second dose.

Updated information on who should get a COVID-19 vaccine can be found [here](#) and there is more information about vaccine aftercare [here](#). More information and immunization data is available through this page: [BCCDC](#).

Updates to VCH's implementation of B.C.'s immunization plan

Provincial registration for a COVID-19 vaccine continues for those born in 2003 or earlier (age 18 years of age and older). People born in 1960 or earlier (59 years of age and older), Indigenous people born in 2003 or earlier (18 years of age and older) and people who are clinically extremely vulnerable are currently being invited to book an appointment to be vaccinated as part of B.C.'s Immunization Plan. Information on how to register for an appointment can be [found here](#).

Please check your scheduled appointment date, time and location; arrive on time for your appointment and avoid arriving early. Wear a short-sleeve shirt as the vaccine will be delivered to your upper arm. You will be monitored after receiving your vaccine for 15 minutes.

VCH opens additional vaccination clinic dates for Sunshine Coast and Powell River

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) has added additional COVID-19 vaccination clinics to the following communities:

- Sechelt: April 28
- Gibsons: April 29
- Powell River: April 28

VCH regularly monitors and adjusts clinic dates and hours of operation based on appointments, vaccine availability and the age demographics of the community. VCH is committed to ensuring those who are eligible for vaccination and live on the Sunshine Coast and Powell River will have the opportunity to get their vaccine.

S.U.C.C.E.S.S. and VCH host another COVID-19 information session in Mandarin

In partnership with [S.U.C.C.E.S.S.](#), VCH is pleased to be hosting another information session about the COVID-19 immunization rollout on Saturday, May 1 at 4 p.m. Led by Dr. Clement Kwok, the presentation will cover what you need to know about B.C.'s COVID-19 Immunization Plan, including who should receive the COVID-19 vaccine, the kinds of vaccines available in Canada, the safety and effectiveness of the vaccines, when and how to book a vaccination appointment, and what to expect during and after visiting the vaccination clinic. Please [click here](#) to learn more and to register for the session.

BC COVID-19 SPEAK Survey

As part of British Columbia's Public Health response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the BCCDC is looking for your support to promote the [BC COVID-19 SPEAK Round 2 Survey](#). We encourage you and those in your networks to participate in this survey to help us examine how British Columbians have been affected one year into the pandemic, and how their experiences may inform recovery and re-opening. The survey is currently open to all British Columbia residents aged 18 years and older until Sunday, May 9, 2021. You can take the survey [here](#).

Resource toolkit:

- **COVID-19 vaccination update for Kensington neighbourhood residents**

[\[English\]](#) | [\[简体中文 Chinese Simplified\]](#) | [\[繁體中文 Chinese Traditional\]](#) | [\[ਪੰਜਾਬੀ Punjabi\]](#) | [\[Español Spanish\]](#) | [\[Tagalog\]](#) | [\[Tiếng Việt Vietnamese\]](#)

- **Vaccine safety information:**

[\[English\]](#) | [\[简体中文 Chinese Simplified\]](#) | [\[繁體中文 Chinese Traditional\]](#) | [\[한국어 Korean\]](#) | [\[ਪੰਜਾਬੀ Punjabi\]](#) | [\[Tagalog\]](#)

- **Bilingual COVID-19 vaccine safety posters:**

[\[简体中文 Chinese Simplified\]](#) | [\[繁體中文 Chinese Traditional\]](#) | [\[فارسی Farsi\]](#) | [\[한국어 Korean\]](#) | [\[ਪੰਜਾਬੀ Punjabi\]](#) | [\[Tagalog\]](#)

- **Aftercare information:**

[\[English\]](#) | [\[العربية Arabic\]](#) | [\[American Sign Language - ASL\]](#) | [\[简体中文 Chinese Simplified\]](#) | [\[繁體中文 Chinese Traditional\]](#) | [\[فارسی Farsi\]](#) | [\[Français French\]](#) | [\[한국어 Korean\]](#) | [\[ਪੰਜਾਬੀ Punjabi\]](#) | [\[Español Spanish\]](#) | [\[Tigrinya\]](#) | [\[Tiếng Việt Vietnamese\]](#)

- **COVID-19 vaccine posters:**

[\[English\]](#) | [\[简体中文 Chinese Simplified\]](#) | [\[繁體中文 Chinese Traditional\]](#) | [\[فارسی Farsi\]](#) | [\[한국어 Korean\]](#) | [\[ਪੰਜਾਬੀ Punjabi\]](#) | [\[Tiếng Việt Vietnamese\]](#)

- **VCH website information and Questions & Answers:**

[\[English\]](#) | [\[العربية Arabic\]](#) | [\[American Sign Language – ASL\]](#) | [\[简体中文 Chinese Simplified\]](#) | [\[繁體中文 Chinese Traditional\]](#) | [\[فارسی Farsi\]](#) | [\[Français French\]](#) | [\[한국어 Korean\]](#) | [\[Español Spanish\]](#) | [\[Tagalog\]](#) | [\[Tiếng Việt Vietnamese\]](#)

- **COVID-19 vaccine information sessions hosted by S.U.C.C.E.S.S. and VCH (Cantonese and Mandarin)**
[\[Cantonese\]](#) | [\[Mandarin\]](#)
- **COVID-19 vaccine Q&A with Dr. Ray Chaboyer**
[\[English\]](#)

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

Find the Provincial Health Officer's orders [here](#).

To see a map of **COVID-19 cases by local health area**, [visit here](#).

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

For **community engagement opportunities** at VCH, see: <https://engage.vch.ca/>