

## LATEST UPDATE – May 7, 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 yesterday's joint statement on B.C.'s COVID-19 response, Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, reported 694 new cases. Of the new cases, 153 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 133,619 since the start of the pandemic. There are 6,802 active cases of COVID-19 across B.C. currently.

Across the province, there is one COVID-19 related death, while 457 people are currently hospitalized, with 154 of these cases receiving treatment in ICU/critical care. The total number of individuals who have passed away due to COVID-19 is 1,595.

### COVID-19 vaccine update

Since the start of immunizations, 1,995,496 doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in B.C., 95,868 of which are second doses.

Our immunizations are going up quickly, and the ages for those who are eligible are rapidly coming down. Today, anyone 49 and older can book their vaccine. That age will continue to decrease in the coming days.

The B.C. immunization committee and public health teams are actively looking at how, where and when to best incorporate youth aged 12-17 into the age-based program. Details will be provided once plans are finalized.

We have had our first probable case of vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia (VITT) following an AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccination. This is a rare but serious condition.

There is a test and treatment, but of course recognizing symptoms and getting treatment early on is very important. If you have had a vaccine – any vaccine – in the last four to 28 days and are feeling unwell, call 811 or contact your health-care provider.

Every vaccine helps protect you and those around you. We encourage everyone to get immunized with any of the COVID-19 vaccines as soon as you are eligible.

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](#).

### VCH high-transmission neighbourhood residents 30 years and older eligible for vaccine

As part of the B.C. COVID-19 Immunization Plan for priority neighbourhoods, Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) will offer targeted vaccinations to people 30 years of age and older who reside in the [high-transmission neighbourhoods](#) of Cedar Cottage, Grandview Woodland, Hastings Sunrise, Kensington, Killarney, Renfrew-Collingwood, Sunset and Victoria Fraserview. Residents of these neighbourhoods are encouraged to [register](#) to receive a link to book their vaccination appointment.

VCH will be opening a COVID-19 vaccine clinic at [Killarney Community Centre](#) (6260 Killarney Street) from May 8 to 14, 17 to 21 and 25 to 28 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Vaccinations will be provided by appointment only.

All B.C. residents 18 years of age and older (born in 2003 or earlier) are encouraged to register now through the provincial [Get Vaccinated](#) website, call centre (1-833-838-2323) or in person at a [Service B.C. office](#). Translation services are available through the call centre.

Following registration, residents will be notified by phone, email or text message as soon as they are eligible to book a vaccine appointment.

VCH encourages family, friends, neighbours and social services agencies to help get the word out to adults 18+ about registering to receive their COVID-19 vaccine.

### 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). Information on how to register for an appointment can be [found here](#). **All British Columbians are encouraged to register**, even if you have received your first dose. Registering means you will be sent a booking link for your second dose when it's time.

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 upgrades the in-patient mental health unit at Richmond Hospital

VCH has begun renovating the in-patient acute mental health unit at Richmond Hospital, upgrading the space to improve overall patient experience and safety, and providing leading mental health care support for the Richmond community.

Located on the second floor at Richmond Hospital, the 10,000 square foot in-patient acute mental health unit currently has 18 beds, and serves more than 250 patients each year. The renovation will see a range of modifications made to the space, including a new kitchen, family dining area, multifunctional activity room, patient and family lounge, as well as new furniture, lighting and décor that promotes a welcoming and nurturing home-like experience. The in-patient acute mental health unit is scheduled to re-open late 2021.

The renovations create a safe, comfortable and therapeutic environment, reducing the stigma of mental illness by ensuring dignity and respect for patients and families.

Funding for the mental health unit renovation is supported by Richmond Hospital Foundation. Learn more about their \$1.25M fundraising campaign at <https://www.richmondhospitalfoundation.com/why-give/>.

May 3 to 9, 2021 marks Mental Health Week and an opportunity to celebrate, protect and promote mental health. One in five people in our community face mental health challenges and the COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect almost every aspect of life, including mental wellness. Supports are available to everyone who needs them – now and after the pandemic – and can be found at [www.gov.bc.ca/Covid19MentalHealthSupports](http://www.gov.bc.ca/Covid19MentalHealthSupports).

### 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](#). To date, more than 192,000 people have completed the 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:

- **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:**

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

- **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**  
[\[English\]](#)

- **COVID-19 vaccine info session by VCH Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. Patricia Daly**  
[\[English\]](#)

### 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/>