

ISLAND HEALTH MEDICAL STAFF BULLETIN

December 22, 2021



- [Holiday greetings from President and CEO Kathy MacNeil](#)

My wish for you is that you can find some time over the next couple of weeks to slow things down, quiet your mind, quiet your thoughts and focus on what really matters to you. When we ground ourselves in what is really most important, we can find the energy we need to keep going".

- [Dr. Ben Williams Holiday Message](#)

Thank you for your selfless dedication to our patients. Happy holidays to you and your families.

URGENT

Are you a midwife, nurse practitioner or physician interested in providing COVID-19 immunizations? With the rapid spread of the Omicron variant, we are quickly ramping up immunization capacity across the Island and urgently need your help to fill shifts this holiday season and into the new year.

We would really appreciate hearing from any current or recently retired (within past 3-years) professionals willing to help out in vaccination clinics in communities across Island Health. Multiple shifts and locations are available. Let us know what works for you.

Please express your interest by completing the following brief survey:

<https://surveys.viha.ca/surveys/medicalstaffeoi>. Time commitment and locations vary, so please indicate your preferences when you are filling out the web form. Questions can also be submitted directly to MLCOVID19@islandhealth.ca. Please don't hesitate to connect with us even if you have limited availability.

NOTE: If you have already identified your interest through a previous process, the Division of Family Practice, the Doctors of BC, or are a retired physician who has been in contact with Island Health's Medical Affairs Department, you do not need to re-apply.

We will be connecting with interested individuals in the coming days. Thank you for your support.

BCCDC COVID-19 Case Reports

	Today's New Cases	New Cases since December 15 (last bulletin)	Active Cases	Currently hospitalized (ICU)	Cumulative Cases	Total Deaths
BC	1,528	6,926	7,307	187(71)	231,171	2,409
Island Health	175	1,076	1,145	38(15)	15,144	138

** Data from BCCDC public dashboard**

PHO/MHO News Release

BC COVID-19 Dashboard

BCCDC COVID-19 Canadian and Global Epidemiology

Island Health dashboard for new cases:

- Dec 22: [35 North Island Cases, 70 Central Island Cases, 107 South Island](#)
- Dec 21: [43 North Island Cases, 41 Central Island Cases, 107 South Island](#)
- Dec 18-20: [78 North Island Cases, 70 Central Island Cases, 249 South Island](#)
- Dec 17: [21 North Island Cases, 37 Central Island Cases, 62 South Island](#)
- Dec 16: [44 North Island Cases, 33 Central Island Cases, 54 South Island](#)

COVID-19 Updates:



- [Province strengthens COVID-19 measures for safer holiday season](#)
Our Provincial Health Officer is implementing additional measures to address

rising COVID-19 case counts in order to avoid an increase in hospitalizations and critical care admissions and subsequent stress on the health system.

- [Premier's statement on federal travel advisory](#)

Premier John Horgan has issued this recommendation in response to the December 15th federal travel advisory: “I urge British Columbians to follow the federal government’s advice to avoid non-essential travel outside the country. As the highly transmissible Omicron variant spreads worldwide, this is not a time to take chances.”

- [Province introduces new COVID-19 measures for safer holiday season](#)

To address rising COVID-19 case counts and keep people safe, the Provincial Health Officer is issuing revised orders, which take effect on Monday, Dec. 20, 2021. Measures will extend to Jan. 31, 2022, at 11:59 p.m.

- [Post COVID-19 Recovery Clinic – New Referral Form](#)

A Post-COVID-19 Recovery Clinic (PCRC) is opening in early 2022 at the Royal Jubilee Hospital. The PCRC is a sister clinic of the four already functioning PCRC programs on the mainland. This clinic will offer both in-person and virtual care to all Vancouver Island residents experiencing chronic symptoms more than 12 weeks after their acute infectious COVID-19 episode. The referral form is available on Pathways and should NOT be used to refer patients who require urgent COVID-19 clinical care.

- [New: Disseminated Strongyloidiasis Guidance](#)

BC COVID Therapeutics Committee (CTC) issued a Clinical Practice Guide for Assessment and Prevention of Disseminated Strongyloidiasis in patients hospitalized with COVID-19.

- [Therapy in Adult Pregnant Patients with COVID19](#)

Clinical guidance from the BC COVID-19 Therapeutics Committee focuses on therapy uses for pregnant patients who have COVID-19 and are inpatients in either the ICU or ward, or are Ambulatory outpatients.

COVID-19 Outbreaks:

- No new outbreaks

COVID-19 Vaccine Information:

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Island Health region Total Vaccines Administered To Date	% Population Immunized (12+) 2nd Dose To Date	% Population Immunized (5+) 2nd Dose To Date	% Population Immunized (18+) Two Doses & Boosters To Date
1,546,381	90.6%	84.6%	16.4%

- [Self-register for the third-dose with Immunize BC.](#)
If you haven't yet identified as a health-care worker with ImmunizeBC, first make sure you are registered in the www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca system, then self-

identify as a health-care worker using this link [www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca/s/d3-target-self-identification] and access code: **Y6383E!**

- [Update to Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2: Immunization, Part 4 – Biological Products](#)

Booster dose eligibility has been updated to include people temporarily or permanently residing/working in an Indigenous community. Footnote A has been added to indicate that a 0.5 mL dose of AstraZeneca vaccine should only be offered as a booster dose if a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine is contraindicated or inaccessible, or if the client refuses an mRNA vaccine. More updates within the document.

- [World Health Organization Emergency Use Authorization Qualified COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

Updated to include Covovax: This document is intended to provide health care providers with approaches for individuals who have received COVID-19 vaccination outside of Canada. The WHO list of EUA qualified COVID-19 vaccines will be updated over time as additional COVID-19 vaccines receive emergency use listing, and as such, this document will be updated accordingly.

COVID-19 Reports:

- [BCCDC COVID-19 LTC, AL & Independent Living Report](#)
- [Situation Report](#)

- [Geographic distribution of COVID-19 by local health area of case residence](#)

B.C. COVID-19 Pandemic Updates:

- [B.C. COVID-19 pandemic update | Dec 22](#)
- [B.C. COVID-19 pandemic update | Dec 21](#)

Spotlight:



- [Dr. Paul Winston and two Nanaimo clinics among many winners of the 2021 BC Quality Awards](#)

2021 BC Quality Awards announced

- [Congratulation Dr. Kent - Cystic Fibrosis Canada Award Recipient](#)

Dr. Steven Kent is a pediatrician and latest recipient of the Cystic Fibrosis (CF) Canada National Dr. Douglas Crozier Award. The award is presented by Cystic Fibrosis Canada in recognition of a healthcare professional who has demonstrated exceptional support to individuals or families living with Cystic Fibrosis.



- [Ideas About Boosting Morale?](#)

We are asking anyone with ideas about ways to improve morale – whether within your team or on a large scale – to share them in our [Health Human Resources Survey](#).

- [Spotlight on Seniors - Celebrating Seniors during a COVID-19 Holiday Season](#)

At Island Health, the Seniors Health team has created a resource site to help care providers meet the needs of this unique and growing patient population. For the next few months, we will be highlighting a new topic of interest every week.

- [Culturally Safe Engagement: What Matters to Indigenous \(First Nations, Métis and Inuit\) Patient Partners](#)

As part of its ongoing commitment to cultural safety and humility, the BC Patient Safety & Quality Council (BCPSQC) is sharing two new resources to support culturally safe engagement in health care.

- [Medical Staff Engagement Opportunity – Choosing Wisely Public Awareness Campaign](#)

Medical Staff are invited to participate in a new Working Group and help shape the future of patient and provider engagement with Choosing Wisely at Island Health!

- [Clinical Governance Improvement Initiative: Engagement Survey Reminder](#)

To help the CGII Project Team learn more about the current state of clinical governance at Island Health, the Project Team kindly asks that you [complete our new survey](#) now open until January 14, 2022.

- [Site Safety & Distancing in the Work Environment](#)

COVID-19 site safety plans are still in effect system-wide and remain critically important as the science continues to reveal more about the Omicron variant and its rate of transmission. .

IHealth News:

- [IHealth News for Medical Staff Issue No. 7](#)

This edition includes: Happy Holidays message from RJH and VGH Site Chiefs, Electronic Clinical Documentation comes to rural Port Alice, Tip of the Day and much more.

Island Health End of Day & CEO Messages:

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- [Pandemic Planning COVID-19 Update | Dec 21](#)
 - [Pandemic Planning COVID-19 Update | Dec 17](#)

If you wish to add a Calendar Event to your personal Outlook Calendar, click this button at the top of the calendar pop-up



All upcoming events found on the calendar of events page

[Calendar of Events page](#)

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The next email bulletin will occur **January 5th** unless additional updates are necessary.

The [medical staff website](#) is updated Monday through Friday (excluding holidays).

If you have any questions, please email MedStaffCommunications@viha.ca :

**Health, Wellness & Urgent Support Services available for
Medical Staff**



Thank you for reading the Medical Staff Bulletin.