

- [Thanks to those who answered the call](#)

Thank you to everyone who expressed interest in supporting Island Health's immunization campaign. Island Health is happy to share that because of outpouring of support we were able to quickly ramp up and meet our clinic need for immunizers.

BCCDC COVID-19 Case Reports

COVID 19 Cases:

	Today's New Cases	New Cases since January 19 (last bulletin)	Active Cases	Currently hospitalized (ICU)	Cumulative Cases	Total Deaths
BC	2,086	13,308	30,058	949(136)	316,873	2,575
Island Health	219	1,770	1,781	87(10)	26,711	167

** Data from BCCDC public dashboard**

PHO/MHO News Release

BCCDC COVID-19 Canadian and Global Epidemiology

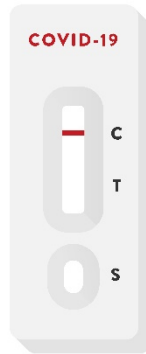
BC COVID-19 Dashboard: [Click here](#) for a daily update on COVID-19 numbers for British Columbia, Vancouver Island and other health regions. *Updates made after 4pm daily.

COVID-19 Updates:

- Pre-Surgical COVID-19 Screening at Island Health

In response to questions at the Medical Leaders Town Hall, we would like to share that there are no substantive changes to COVID-19 screening for surgical patients in the Island Health Authority.

- At this time, Island Health does not recommend Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) for all pre-surgery patients. However, we do recommend Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests if new symptoms present when the call 48-72 hours pre-admission is made.
- Island Health hopes to return to solely screening people whose symptoms cannot be explained by the surgical presentation.
 - We will not be recommending PCR or RAT for in-hospital pre-screening for surgical cases.
- We have eliminated negative pressure and time outs for yellow and red cases of COVID-19 given our high vaccination rates in healthcare providers and effective PPE.

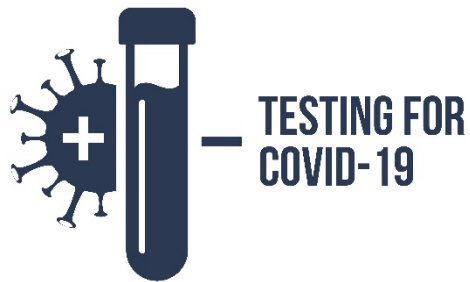


RAPID DIAGNOSTIC TEST

- [IDNOW™ RAPID TESTING FOR HEALTH-CARE WORKERS](#)
Island Health test sites are now equipped with ID NOW™ COVID-19 rapid tests, which will ensure health-care workers who have a shift within 24-hours can get tested and receive results quickly.
If you provide direct care, are feeling mild symptoms that may be COVID-19, AND have a shift within 24-hours, you will qualify for an ID NOW™ rapid test. Call the Island Health priority call line at 1-833-737-9377, 8am-4pm daily, to book your appointment at any local site. (NOTE: Port Alberni and Qualicum sites will be rolling out ID NOW™ testing in the days ahead).
- [BC Vaccine Card Program Extended until June 30, 2022](#)
The Government of BC moved to extend B.C.'s vaccine card program to access non-essential indoor spaces, including restaurants, bars and gyms until June 30. The program implemented in mid-September 2021 and was set to expire on Jan. 31, 2022.

- [Updated: Mask Policy | Island Health Document](#)

Island Health policy has been updated with the addition of the word 'Excluding' to the Environment column of the Patients section (page 4).



- [BCCDC COVID-19 Testing Guidance Handouts](#)

New BCCDC guidance handouts explain what to do following a positive COVID-19 test result:

- Fully vaccinated people and people younger than 18 years: self-isolate for at least 5 days from the first day you had symptoms, and until your symptoms have improved and you no longer have a fever, if you had one. Avoid higher risk settings, such as long term care facilities and gatherings.
 - People aged 18 years and older who are not fully vaccinated: self-isolate for at least 10 days from the first day you had symptoms, and until your symptoms have improved and you no longer have a fever, if you had one.
- [Updated: Sotrovimab Medication Documents](#)
The Island Health memo on Sotrovimab injection use and access now contains updated information about the new [Outpatient COVID Therapeutics Clinic](#)

[\(OCTC\)](#). There were also minor changes made to the provincial Clinical Practice Guide for the Use of Sotrovimab in Patients with COVID-19.

- [Updated: Antimicrobial and Immunomodulatory Therapy in Adult Patients with COVID-19](#)

This updated BCCDC guidance document addresses key therapeutic areas of concern for clinicians with recommendations sorted by severity of patient illness.

- [Pediatric Respiratory Resources](#)

The BC Children's Hospital list of Pediatric Respiratory Resources for health care providers.

COVID-19 Outbreaks:

- [Island Health COVID-19 outbreak updates](#)

Details can be found in [this updated list](#) of active 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
1,793,265	91.6%	85.6%	46.5%

- [NACI Statement: Recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccines in Children 5 to 11 years of Age](#)

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) issued a statement updating their language around 5-11 age group vaccines from “may be offered” to “recommended,” due to the rising number of children being hospitalized or falling ill.

- [Updated: COVID-19 Vaccination Clinical Guidance](#)

Island Health guidance document for COVID-19 immunizers Section 1.1 (What if a client presents without an appointment?) has been updated to state:

“Information about booster doses for Long-Term Care/Assisted Living/Seniors’ Independent Living staff at least 8 weeks after completion of primary series.”

- [Update to Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 1: Communicable Disease Control: COVID-19 Interim Guidelines and Chapter 2: Immunization, Part 4 – Biological Products](#)

BCCDC COVID-19 guidance in the Communicable Disease Manual was updated with information about self-isolation period for COVID-19 cases. Specific updates include information about myocarditis and pericarditis to allow for further vaccination of individuals with a history compatible with pericarditis or confirmed myocarditis provided that certain conditions are met.



- [Staff and Medical Staff Booster Clinics](#)

Island Health's Occupational Health & Safety team continues to offer on-site COVID-19 booster clinics for staff and medical staff, and now includes medical staff and staff in Primary Care and Community Health Services.

- [Clinical Guidance on COVID-19 Vaccines for People with Significant Neuromuscular Conditions and Autoimmune Neuromuscular Disorders](#)

These BCCDC guidance documents focus on the safety of COVID-19 Vaccines for people with Significant Neuromuscular Conditions Who Require Respiratory Support and Autoimmune Neuromuscular Disorders Receiving Immunosuppressive/ Immunomodulating Therapy. Updates include Moderna will be approved shortly for children aged 6-11, information around 3rd vaccine doses and booster doses.

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 update | Jan 26](#)

Spotlight:

- [Thoughts on supporting ourselves and each other](#)

The end of January is a good time to turn our attention to mental health. One high profile public campaign “ Bell Let's Talk Day” is held on January 26. This year's theme is “Supporting ourselves and each other.”



- [Richard Stanwick Retirement](#)

Dr. Stanwick, having graciously postponed his retirement by a month to provide transitional support during the Omicron surge of the pandemic, officially retires from Island Health this Friday, January 28. Please read the tribute and farewell to Dr. Stanwick from CEO Kathy MacNeil.

- [Pay Parking to Resume in March 2022](#)

On January 20, 2022, the Ministry of Health issued a statement noting the return of pay parking at care facilities in BC, effective March 4, 2022.

- Payment and a parking permit will be required for medical staff.
- Physicians will be receiving their permit renewal notices in the mail over the coming weeks.

Newsletters:

- [Primary Care Update - January 26th](#)
 - [Medical Health Office Newsletter – January 26th](#)
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Island Health End of Day & CEO Messages:

- [Pandemic Planning COVID-19 Update | January 25](#)
 - [Pandemic Planning COVID-19 Update | January 21](#)
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Upcoming Events:

- [Grand Rounds Addiction Medicine | Thursday January 27, 12:00-13:00](#)
 - [Principles of Medical Leadership | Presented by the Canadian Medical Protective Association \(CMPA\) | February 1, 8:00-11:30](#)
 - [Infection Rounds | Wednesday February 2, 12:00-13:00](#)
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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 **February 2nd** 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.
