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**MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICERS'
NEWSLETTER**
No. 333

June 29, 2021

COVID-19 Update #16

Vaccination Update:

- Over 830,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been provided within Island Health, and over 75% of eligible people (aged 12 and up) have received at least one dose and over 25% have received two doses.
- All immunization clinics now accept walk-ins for first doses; site information can be accessed at covid19.islandclinics.ca/. Second doses must be booked through the provincial system at gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/register.
- In the UK, two doses of vaccine was found to be highly protective against the Delta variant in reducing the risk of symptomatic disease by 88% and reducing the risk of hospitalization by 94%: go.nature.com/3qvDPDM. We recommend booking an appointment to receive the 2nd dose as soon as eligible, with reassurance that the absolute risk within Island Health of acquiring COVID-19 is very low, and one dose provides good protection to all current variants.
- The Moderna and Pfizer mRNA vaccines are effectively interchangeable and are safe to mix; see NACI statement at bit.ly/2U4Rsh1. Clinics are unable to accommodate individual preference.
- Close contacts to a COVID-19 case who are fully vaccinated are not required to self-quarantine, unless otherwise directed by public health. See updated BCCDC case and contact management guidance at bit.ly/3hawdSL.
- Myocarditis/pericarditis following mRNA vaccination is being monitored provincially (bit.ly/3xiFhvB) and federally (health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/vaccine-safety/). In the US a higher rate is being seen in 12-39 year olds at 1 in 80,000 dose 2 recipients, and more commonly in young males. Most cases are mild and self-limiting. We may expect to see 3-4 cases if all 12-39 year olds receive two doses of mRNA vaccine. For more information from the BCCDC see bit.ly/3Ac9239.
- PHAC is monitoring cases of capillary leak syndrome and Guillain-Barré Syndrome following AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccination, see health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/vaccine-safety/
- Refer to previous newsletter on guidance on adverse events following immunization (AEFI): bit.ly/3tDIPsd. A 1-page reporting form is available at bit.ly/2Ta8JFe.

Resources:

- One-stop-shop for medical staff at medicalstaff.islandhealth.ca/covid-19
- Surveillance:
 - Island Health: islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/covid-19/outbreaks-and-exposures
 - BCCDC: bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data
- BC's Restart: gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restart



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Situational assessment:

- COVID-19 daily incidence in Island Health has remained very low in June... 7-day lab testing percent positivity remains very low at 0.8%... So far in June, 6 cases were hospitalized... COVID-19 cases continue to be contacted well within 24h... The majority of cases in Island Health continue to have an identified source of infection... Currently, there are no active outbreaks in facilities... Canada's COVID-19 goal is "to minimize serious illness and overall deaths while minimizing societal disruption as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic"

