MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICERS' NEWSLETTER No. 336



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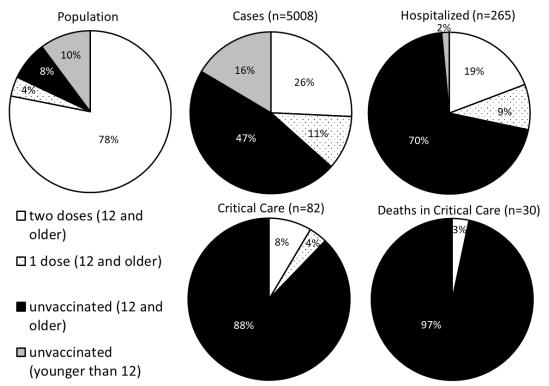
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November 4, 2021

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COVID-19 Update #19

- A provincial COVID-19 booster dose roll-out has started, with details at <u>bit.ly/3GSqWeA</u>. While there is evidence for decreased protection from acquiring COVID-19 with time since vaccination, protection against severe disease remains extremely high. Patients should be reassured that they are highly protected against harm from COVID-19 if they have completed a primary series, ensure they are registered in the provincial system (<u>getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca</u>), and wait until they are invited to book for a booster dose. There is no process for expediting booster doses.
- Those who are unvaccinated continue to make up a disproportionately high number of cases, the majority of hospitalizations, and the vast majority of critical care admissions: Island Health population and COVID-19 cases by vaccine status, 1 August - 23 Oct 2021



- The most important intervention against COVID-19 remains the first dose of vaccine. Please continue to work with your vaccine-hesitant patients with supporting resources:
 - Patient-oriented Q+A: immunizebc.ca/covid-19
 - Healthcare provider communication tool: <u>bit.ly/3j4cOFj</u>
 - BCCDC toolkit for health professionals: <u>bit.ly/382A1BI</u>
- Contraindications to COVID-19 vaccination are extremely rare. Guidance on exemption
 requests can be found at <u>bit.ly/3EzpooJ</u>. Healthcare workers seeking exemptions must
 submit requests themselves to the Provincial Health Officer as per <u>bit.ly/31vzlza</u>.
 - If a client has concerns of an adverse event following immunization and is seeking guidance for subsequent vaccination, please refer to previous newsletter for guidance: <u>bit.ly/3tDIPsd</u>. A 1-page reporting form is available at <u>bit.ly/2Ta8JFe</u>.