

British Columbia (BC) COVID-19 Situation Report

Week 47: November 15 – November 21, 2020

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Pandemic phase definitions	2	COVID-19 incidence remained elevated in week 47 in all health authorities (HA), and is expected to further increase as data become more complete. In week 47, incidence provincially was 77 per 100K, about 5 times higher than the week 38 (mid-September) start of Phase 3b. Week 47 incidence was 132 per 100K in Fraser (FHA), 78 per 100K in Vancouver Coastal (VCHA), 35 per 100K in Northern (NHA), 27 per 100K in Interior (IHA), and 12 per 100K in Vancouver Island (VIHA).
Epidemic curve	2	
Weekly incidence by health authority and health service delivery area	2	Incidence in week 47 was at least triple that of week 38 for all age groups. Of concern, adults 80+ had amongst the highest incidence at 116 per 100K which is ~35% higher than in week 46 and 16 times higher than in week 38. Adults 80+ years comprised 7% of cases in week 47, double their share in week 38 (3%).
Test rates and % positive	4	
Age profile, testing and cases	5	Lab surveillance data include Medical Service Plan (MSP) (e.g. clinical diagnostic) as well as non-MSP (e.g. asymptomatic screening) specimens. However, screening specimens have lower likelihood of testing positive and comprise an increased share of specimens tested across Phase 3b, notably in the Lower Mainland. In prior reports, percent positivity was based on all specimens but will now also be presented separately for MSP specimens only.
Severe outcome counts	8	
Age profile, severe outcomes	9	Percent positivity (MSP only) remained elevated in week 47, at 8.5% provincially: 11% in FHA, 8% in VCHA and NHA, 5% in IHA and 1.5% in VIHA. Positivity exceeded 8% in all age groups except children 0-9 years (5%): highest (approaching 10%) in 15-19 year olds and next highest (approaching 9%) in adults 20-39 and 80+ years.
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Care facility outbreaks	11	There were 199 hospitalizations with a known admission date in week 47, about 33% higher than week 46 (150) and 86% higher than the first wave peak in week 13 (107). Given ongoing increase in cases among older adults, the ultimate tally and timing of the second wave peak in severe outcomes has yet to be determined.
Clinical indicators	12	In week 47, there were 48 deaths, about double the tally in week 46 (22) and the first wave peak in week 15 (26). In week 47, 31 (65%) deaths were associated with a care facility outbreak and 43 (90%) were 70+ years. Of 354 total deaths in BC to date, 239 (68%) were facility outbreak-associated and 300 (85%) were 70+ years.
		There were 23 care facility outbreaks reported in week 47 (16 in FHA, 4 in VCHA, 1 in IHA and 2 in VIHA), 15 with earliest onset date in prior weeks. Facility outbreak tallies by earliest onset date are highest so far in week 46 (23 outbreaks).

BELOW ARE IMPORTANT NOTES relevant to the interpretation of data displayed in this bulletin:

- Unlike other summaries based on report date, this bulletin mainly adopts episode date defined by dates of illness onset, hospital admission, or death. Only when those dates are unknown, is report date used.
- Data are provided by epidemiological week. Episode-based tallies for recent weeks are expected to increase as case data, in particular onset dates, become more complete.
- Per capita rates/incidences are based on PEOPLE2020 population estimates (n=5,139,568 for BC overall).
- Laboratory data include Medical Service Plan (MSP) (e.g. clinical diagnostic) as well as non-MSP (e.g. screening) specimens. The percent of specimens testing positive is presented here for all specimens tested as well as separately for MSP-funded specimens only. Given the systematically lower likelihood of test positivity among screening vs diagnostic specimens, summary analyses are foremost based on MSP-funded diagnostic specimens unless otherwise specified.

***Table of [pandemic phases](#) defined by implementation or relaxation of population-level mitigation measures in BC:**

PRE-PHASE 1 Before implementation January 15 (wk 3) to March 13 (wk 11), 2020	PHASE 1 Implementation March 14 (wk 11) to May 18 (wk 21), 2020	PHASE 2 Initial relaxation May 19 (wk 21) to June 23 (wk 26), 2020	PHASE 3a Further relaxation June 24 (wk 26) to Sept 12 (wk 37), 2020	PHASE 3b Start of school year Sept 13 (wk 38) to Current (wk 47), 2020
From earliest onset date	From start of March break Additionally: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mass gatherings >50 banned (Mar 16) ○ Traveller self-isolation required (Mar 17) ○ Service restrictions (Mar 18) ○ US/Canada border closure (Mar 20) 	Re-opening of services Additionally: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gradual/part-time return to school of K-12 students for 2019-20 school year (Jun 1) 	Broader re-opening Additionally: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Re-opening non-essential travel in BC, hotels, TV/film ○ Return to in-class learning for 2020-21 school year, partial week (Thurs, Sept 10) 	From first complete epidemiological week of 2020-21 school year

A. COVID-19 case counts and epidemic curveReport tallies by week

As shown by the gray line in [Figure 1](#), there were 4,498 new COVID-19 reports in week 47 which is ten times higher than the wave one peak of 442 reports in week 13. The weekly tally by report date, however, includes cases with illness onset date in preceding weeks. Analyses instead based on episode date (i.e. illness onset date and, only if that is unavailable, then report date) may better represent the evolution of the epidemic curve. The bars in [Figure 1](#) display the epidemic curve based on episode date, coloured by health authority. Note that episode-based tallies for recent weeks are expected to increase as case data, in particular onset dates, become more complete.

Episode-based cumulative incidence: provincially and by health authority (HA) (not shown)

Provincially, between week 3 (mid-January) and week 47 (third week of November), there have been 28,718 cases in total in BC, corresponding to a cumulative incidence of 557 per 100K. By HA, this cumulative tally (and incidence) includes: 18,000 cases in Fraser Health Authority (FHA: 928 per 100K); 8,067 cases in Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (VCHA: 666 per 100K); 1,356 cases in Interior Health Authority (IHA: 162 per 100K); 674 cases in Northern Health Authority (NHA: 235 per 100K); and 530 cases in Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA: 561 per 100K).

Episode-based weekly incidence: provincially and by HA and health service district area (HSDA)

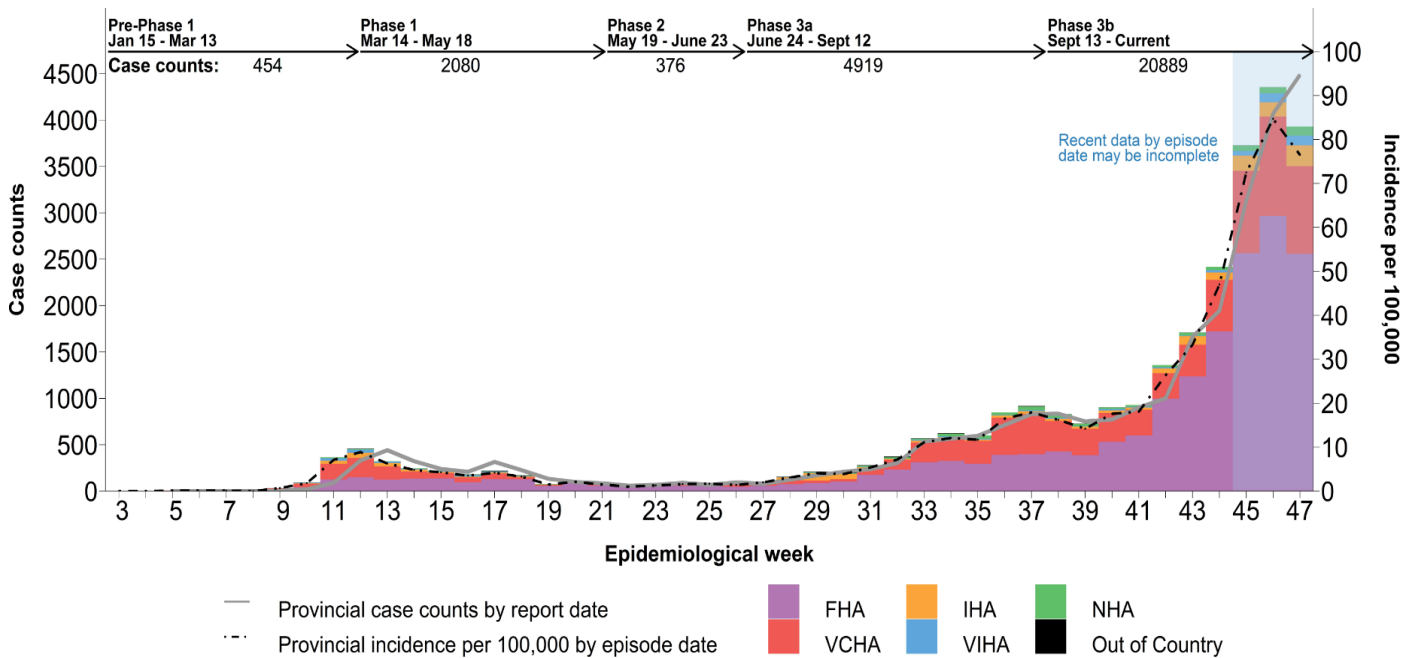
As shown in [Figure 1](#), at the week 38 (mid-September) start of Phase 3b and in week 41, COVID-19 incidence was <20 per 100K (16 and 18 per 100K, respectively) but has shown steady increase since week 41.

As of data extraction for the current bulletin, there were 4,354 and 3,931 cases with episode date in weeks 46 and 47, respectively, corresponding to incidences of 85 and 77 per 100K – about five times higher than the start of Phase 3b. Recognizing that episode-based data for week 47 are still incomplete, and if previous trends continue, we may expect the episode-based rate in week 47 to match or exceed the rate based on report date, which is 88 per 100K.

As shown in [Figure 2](#), incidence in week 47 was highest in FHA and VCHA. In FHA, incidence in week 47 was six times higher than week 38 (132 vs 22 per 100K). Week 47 incidence was 2.5 times that of week 38 in VCHA (78 vs 27 per 100K) and NHA (35 vs 14 per 100K). In IHA, week 47 incidence was nine times higher than in week 38 (27 vs 3 per 100K), with noteworthy increase in the Okanagan HSDA, where there was a sharp increase in the most recent week 47. In VIHA, week 47 incidence was 12 times higher than week 38 (12 vs 1 per 100K), notably in Central Vancouver Island, while remaining the lowest incidence overall by HA.

It warrants repeating that episode-based tallies for recent weeks will further increase as data become more complete, as emphasized by the pale blue shading in [Figure 1](#).

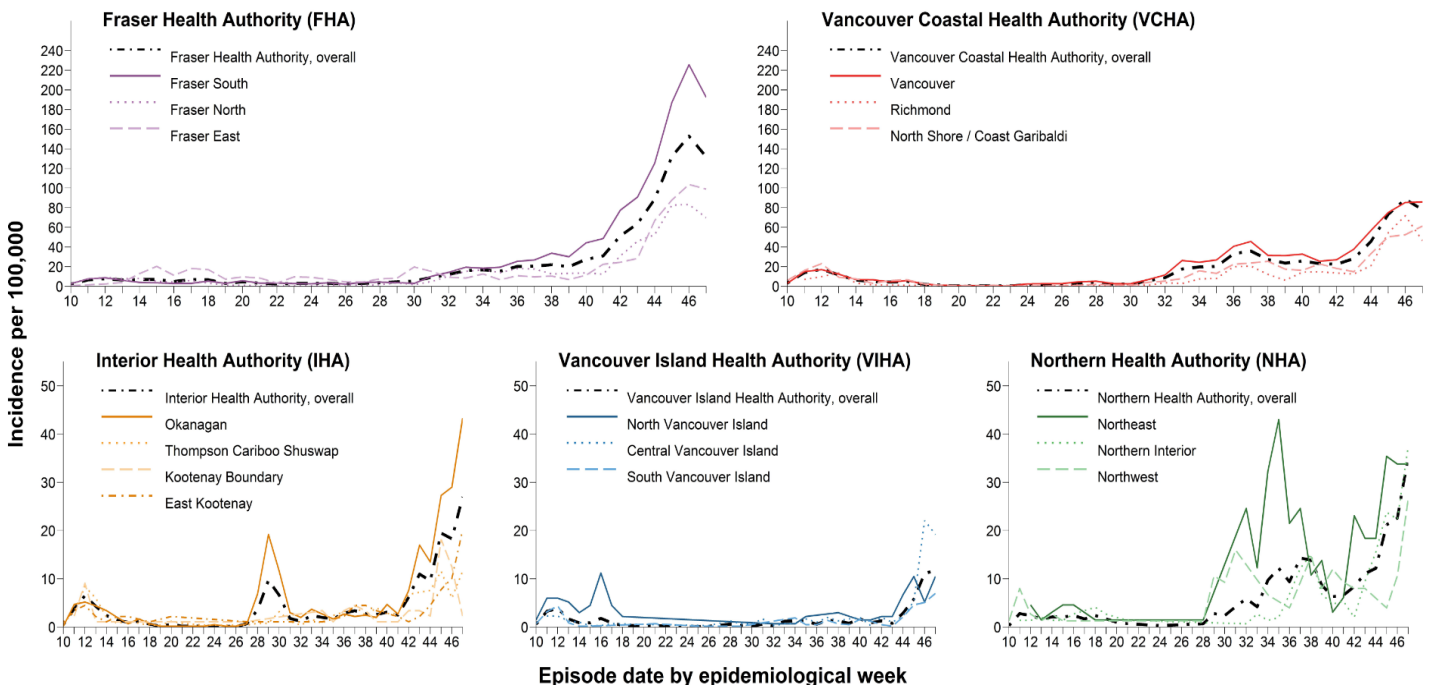
Figure 1. Episode-based epidemic curve (bars)^a, report date (line) and health authority (HA), BC January 15, 2020 (week 3) – November 21, 2020 (week 47) (N= 28,718)



The average weekly rate by phase in Figure 1 is derived as the incidence divided by the number of weeks for Pre-Phase 1 (8 weeks), Phase 1 (9 weeks), Phase 2 (5 weeks), Phase 3a (11.5 weeks), and Phase 3b (10 weeks).

a. First onset date of a case in BC was January 15, 2020. Displayed data extracted after noon on Friday, November 27, 2020.

Figure 2. Weekly episode-based incidence rates by HA and health service delivery area (HSDA), BC March 1, 2020 (week 10) – November 21, 2020 (week 47)



B. Test rates and percent positive

In BC, laboratory-based surveillance captures the mostly symptom-based diagnostic testing conducted under the Medical Service Plan (MSP) funding scheme, as well as any non-MSP funded screening tests. As shown by the bars in [Figure 3](#), the total weekly number of respiratory specimens, both MSP and non-MSP funded, exceeded 80,000 in week 47.

Screening tests have a lower likelihood of testing SARS-CoV-2 positive (i.e. percent positivity) than symptom-based diagnostic testing; therefore, including screening specimens will lower the overall percent positivity indicator and the impact of that will be greater when more screening specimens are included. Below we therefore present percent positivity based on all (MSP and non-MSP funded) specimens and separately also for MSP-funded specimens only.

As shown in [Figure 3](#), percent positivity has increased from week 41-47, from 1.4% to 6.6% based on all specimens (solid line) but more steeply from 1.8% to 8.5% with restriction to MSP-funded specimens only (dotted line). As shown in **Panel A** of [Figure 4](#), whether based on all specimens or MSP-funded specimens only, the per capita testing rate in week 47 was highest in VCHA and FHA. As shown in **Panel B**, percent positivity was also highest in FHA whether based on all specimens (9.0%) or MSP-funded specimens only (11.2%), and next highest in VCHA (4.8% and 7.9%, respectively). In other health authorities, non-MSP funded specimens contributed less to overall tested specimens, with percent positivity for MSP-funded specimens of 7.8% in NHA, 4.6% in IHA and 1.5% in VIHA, each varying within 0.2% of positivity when all specimens are included.

Figure 3. Number of specimens tested and percent SARS-CoV-2 positive, by collection week, BC March 15, 2020 (week 12) – November 21, 2020 (week 47)^a

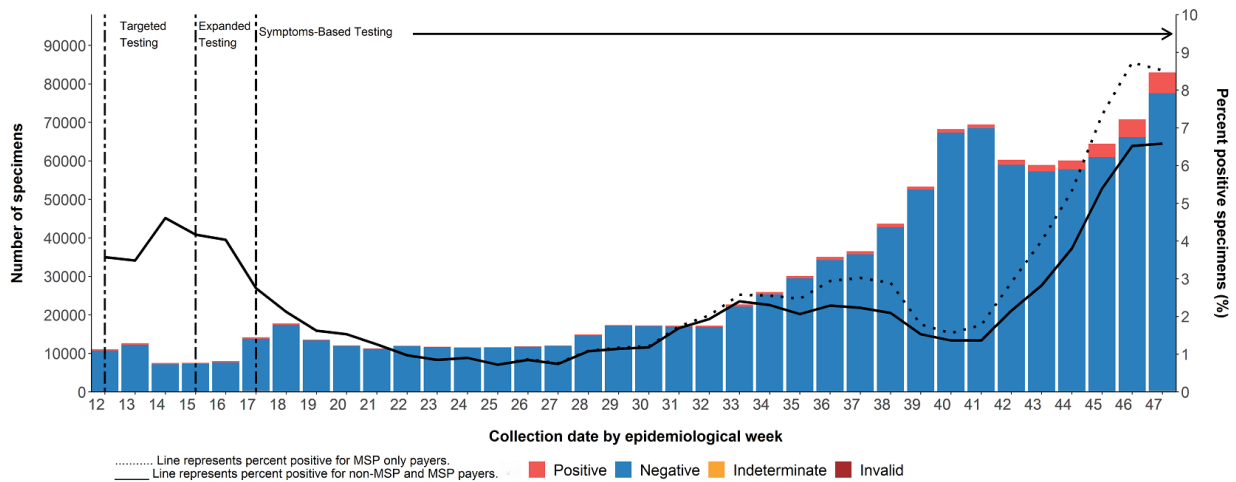
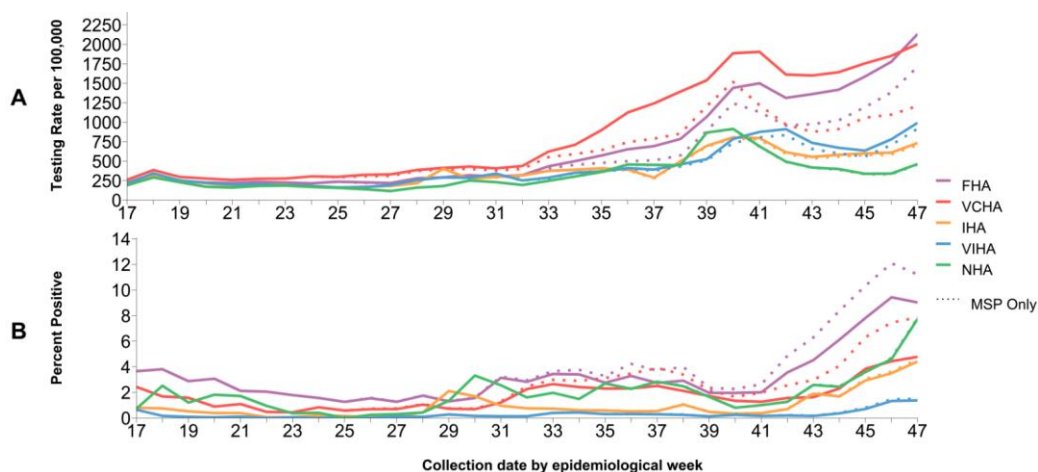


Figure 4. Testing rates and percent SARS-CoV-2 positive by health authority and collection week, BC March 15, 2020 (week 12) – November 21, 2020 (week 47)^a



a. PLOVER extract on November 26, 2020.

C. Age profile – Testing and cases

Testing rates by age group

As shown by the coloured bars in [Figure 5](#), testing rates in week 47 compared to prior weeks 38-46 of Phase 3b were lower in children <15 years old, but higher in all other age groups. The highest testing rates in week 47 remain in adults 20-39 years, similar to weeks 38-46 of Phase 3b.

Percent positivity by age group

As shown by the dots in [Figure 5](#), the percent positivity in week 47 was substantially higher than prior weeks 38-46 of Phase 3b whether based on all specimens (black dots) or restricted to MSP specimens only (grey dots). With restriction to MSP specimens only, percent positivity exceeded 8% in all age groups except children 0-9 years (5.2%), highest and approaching 10% in 15-19 year olds (9.6%), next highest and approaching 9% in adults 20-39 and 80+ years (8.9% and 8.8%, respectively).

Case distribution by age group

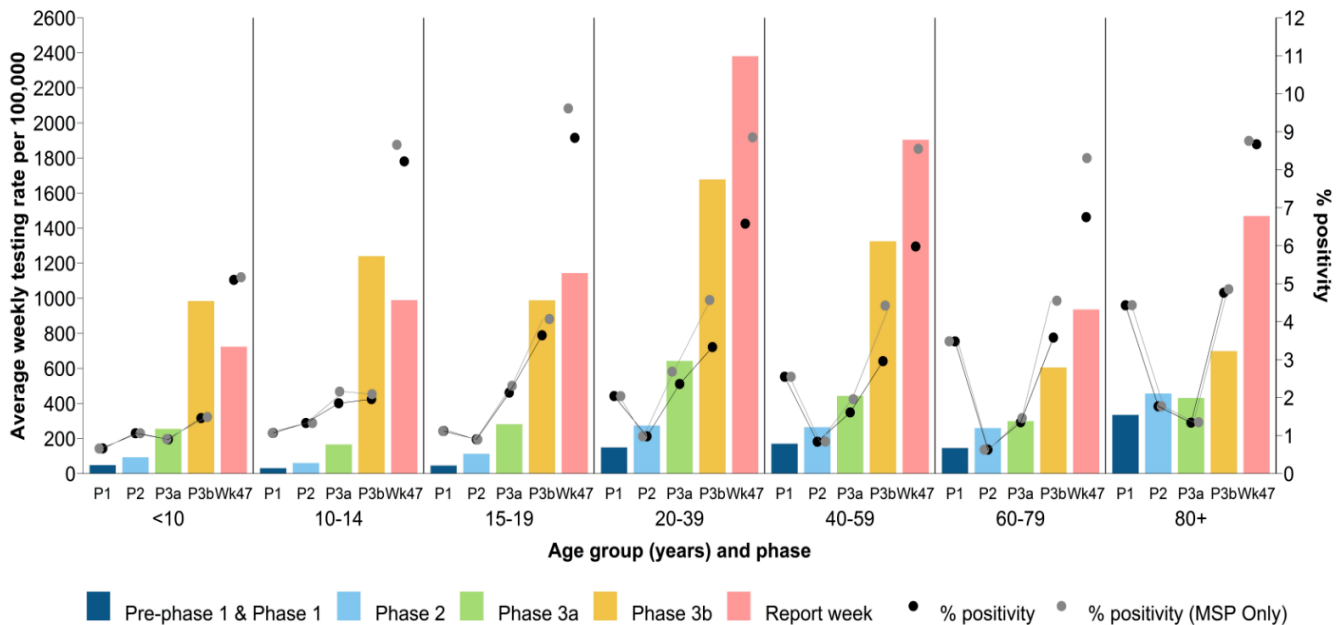
As shown in [Figure 6](#) and [Figure 7](#), elderly adults 80+ years showed the greatest increase in contribution from prior weeks 38-46 of Phase 3b to current report week 47 (from 3.3% to 7.0%: more than a doubling). Contribution by other age groups was relatively stable, although adults 20-39 years who contributed more than half the cases in Phase 3a (53%) contributed less in week 47 (39%) and prior weeks 38-46 of Phase 3b (43%).

Weekly incidence by age group

As shown in [Figure 8](#) and [Figure 9](#) incidence in all age groups in week 47 was at least triple that of week 38. In week 47, incidence was highest in adults 20-29 years (124 per 100K), fourfold higher than in week 38 (30 per 100K). Of concern, week 47 incidence was next highest in elderly adults 80+ years (116 per 100K): 16-fold higher than week 38 (7 per 100K) and 35% higher than prior week 46 (86 per 100K). As shown in [Figure 9](#), incidence among the very old 90+ years is also dramatically elevated in week 47 compared to the average weekly incidence of Phase 3b (5-fold higher from 38 to 189 per 100K). The elevated incidence among the elderly is particularly concerning given their greater risk of severe outcomes ([Section E](#)).

Median age of cases across the pandemic is 37 years: 52 years in Pre-/Phase 1; 40 years in Phase 2; 33 years in Phase 3a; 36 years for prior weeks 38-46 of Phase 3b (excluding week 47) and 38 years in week 47 (not shown).

Figure 5. Average weekly SARS-CoV-2 testing rates and percent positive by known age group and phase^a, BC January 20, 2020 (week 4) – November 21, 2020 (week 47)^b



a. Phase based on specimen collection date, of which January 20 was the earliest. The average weekly rate by phase is derived as the phase-specific per capita test rate divided by the number of weeks for Pre-Phase 1 + Phase 1 (P1: 17 weeks), Phase 2 (P2: 5 weeks), Phase 3a (P3a: 11.5 weeks), and Phase 3b, excluding the current report week (P3b: 9 weeks). The current report week, although part of Phase 3b, is excluded from Phase 3b as displayed here to enable comparison.

b. Laboratory extract from PLOVER on November 26, 2020. Testing rates displayed are based on all specimens (MSP and non-MSP).

Figure 6. COVID-19 case distribution by known age group (years) and episode date, BC March 15, 2020 (week 12) – November 21, 2020 (week 47) (N= 28,162)^a

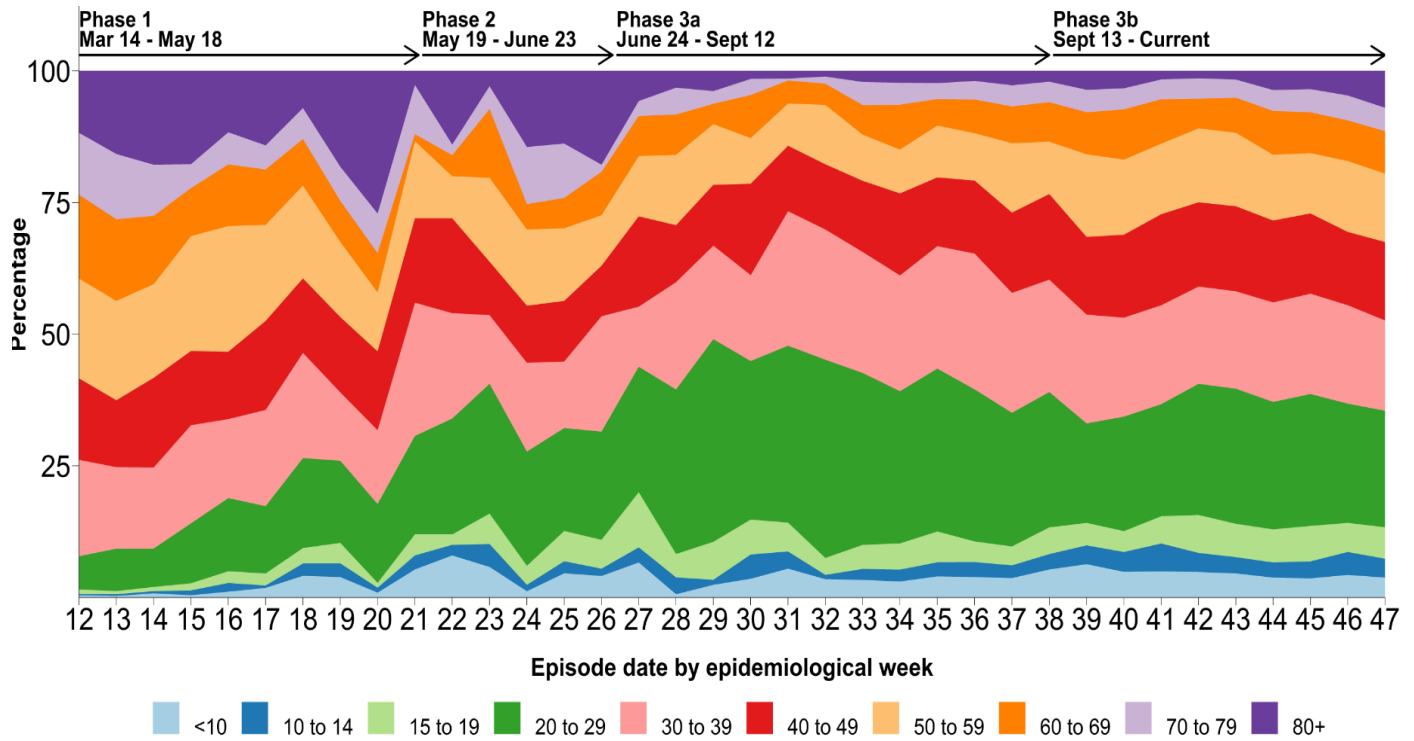
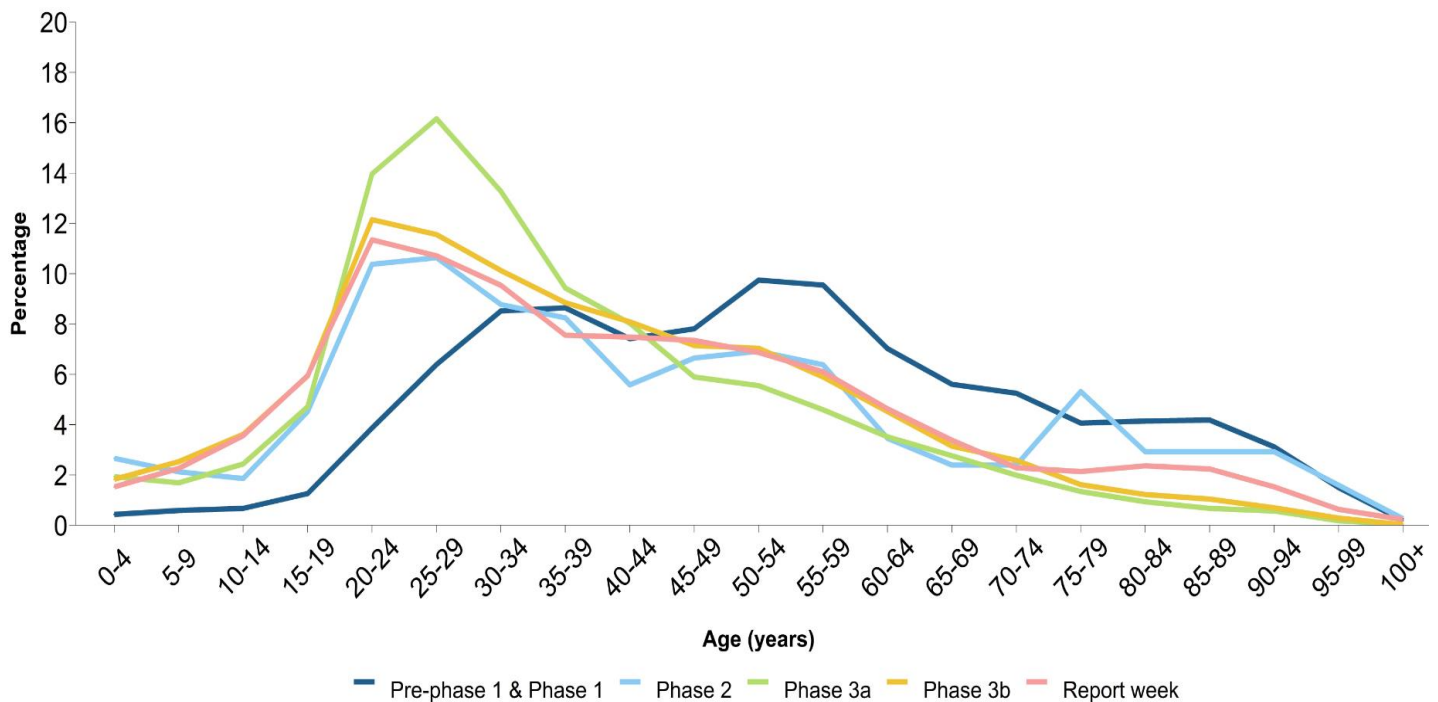


Figure 7. COVID-19 case distribution by known age group (years) for pandemic phases and current report week^b, BC January 15, 2020 (week 3) – November 21, 2020 (week 47) (N= 28,667)^a



a. Among those with available age information only.

b. The current report week, although part of Phase 3b, is excluded from derivations across prior weeks of Phase 3b to enable comparison, as displayed.

Figure 8. Weekly age-specific incidence per 100K population by epidemiological week, BC January 15, 2020 (week 3) – November 21, 2020 (week 47) (N= 28,667)^a

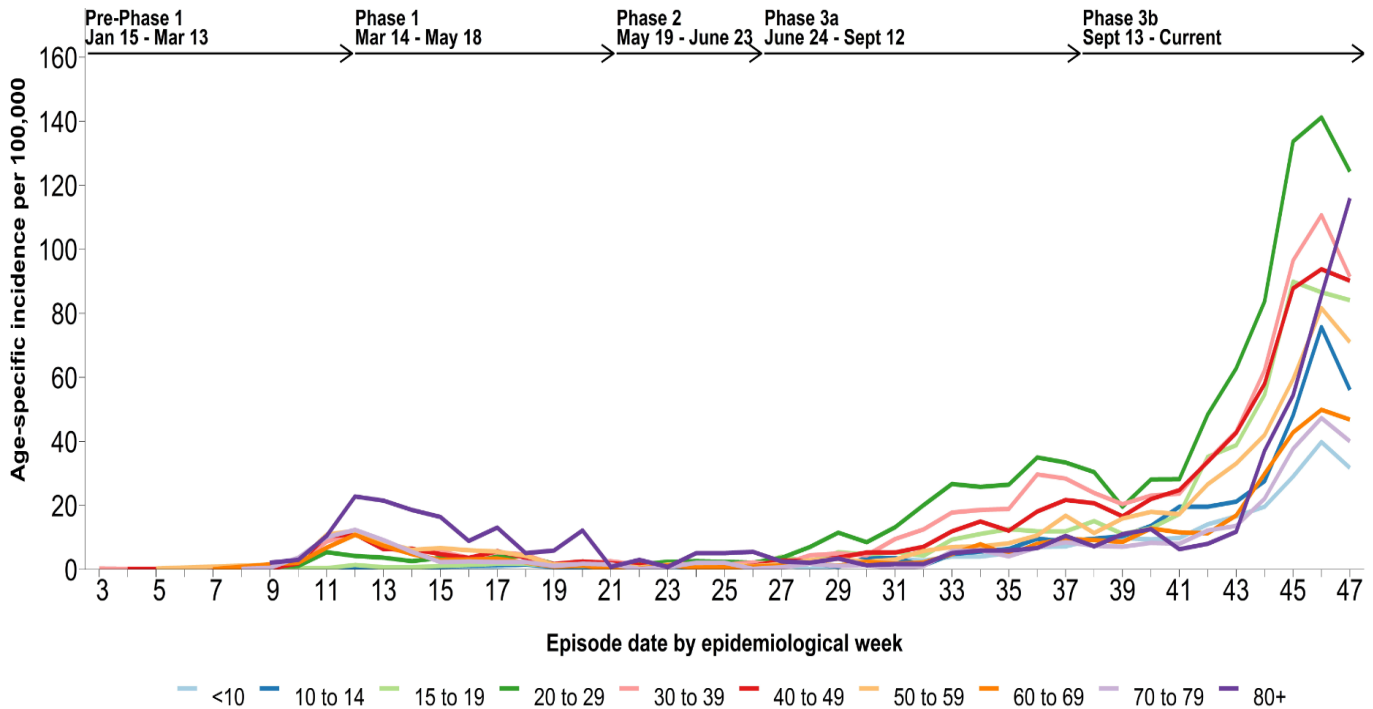
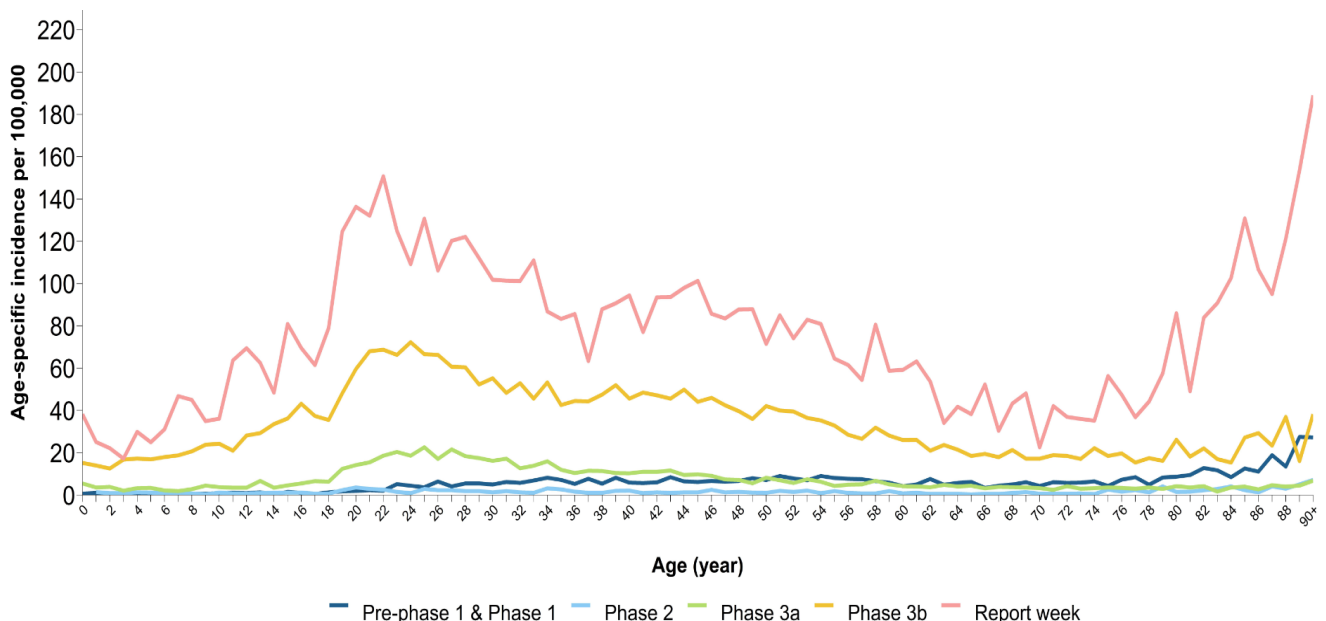


Figure 9. Average weekly incidence per 100K population by single year of age for pandemic phases 3a and 3b and current report week 46^b, BC January 15, 2020 (week 3) – November 21, 2020 (week 47) (N= 28,667)^a



a. Among those with available age information only.

b. The current report week, although part of Phase 3b, is excluded from derivations across prior weeks of Phase 3b to enable comparison, as displayed.

D. Severe outcome counts and epi-curve

There were 199 hospitalizations with known admission date (of 202 reported) in week 47 (Table 1), 33% higher than week 46 (150) and 86% higher than the first wave peak of 107 hospital admissions in week 13 (Figure 10). In week 47 there were 48 deaths, about double the tally of week 46 (22) and the first wave peak in week 15 (26). In week 47, 31/48 (65%) deaths were associated with a care facility outbreak and 43/48 (90%) were 70+ years old, with the remainder between 50 and 69 years old. Of the 354 total deaths to date, 239 (68%) were associated with a care facility outbreak and 300 (85%) were 70+ years old. Note that the ultimate timing of the second wave peak in severe outcomes has yet to be determined.

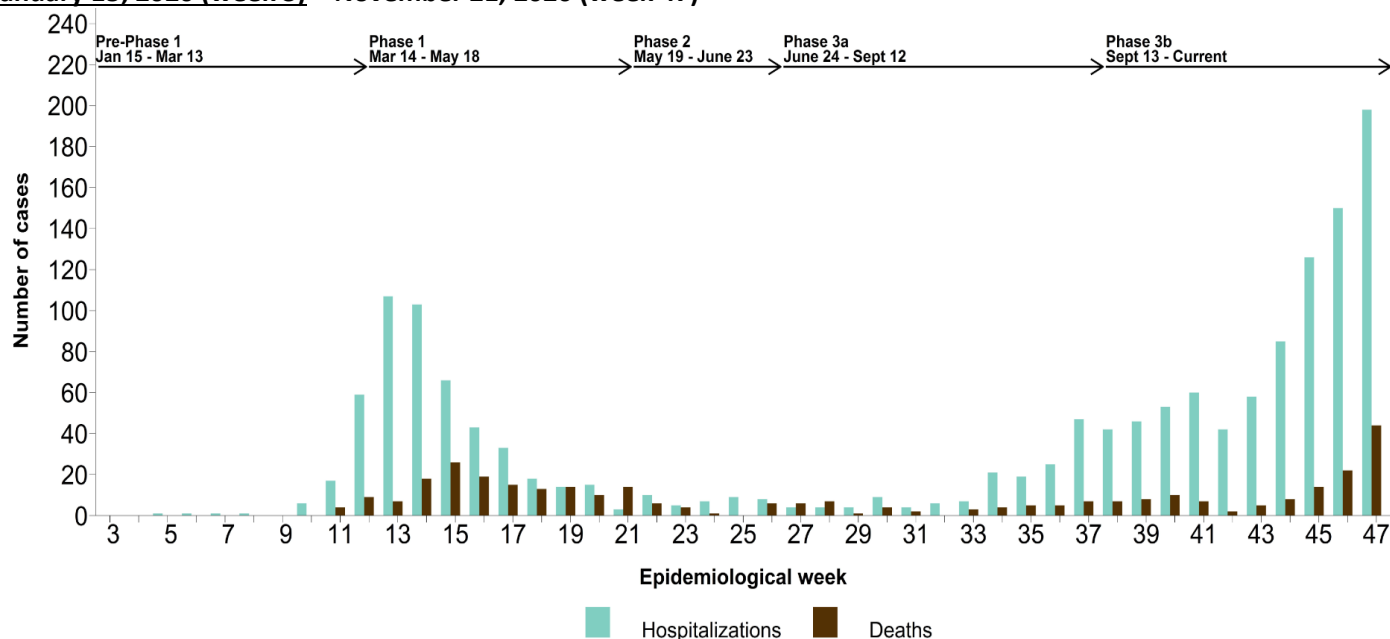
Overall, males comprise 14,574/28,636 (51%) cases, 917/1,553 (59%) hospitalizations, 254/417 (61%) ICU admissions and 201/354 (57%) deaths with known sex to date (not shown).

Table 1. COVID-19 severe outcomes by episode date, health authority of residence, and phase, BC January 15, 2020 (week 3) – November 21, 2020 (week 47)

Health authority of residence:	FHA	IHA	VIHA	NHA	VCHA	Outside Canada	Total n/N (%)
Ever Hospitalized	912	56	29	58	492	8	1,555/28,718 (5)^a
Pre-Phase 1 & Phase 1 (17 weeks)	246	29	25	12	179	2	493/1,555 (32)
Phase 2 (5 weeks)	26	1	0	2	6	1	36/1,555 (2)
Phase 3a (11.5 weeks)	99	5	0	10	40	2	156/1,555 (10)
Phase 3b (9 weeks, excluding week 47)	412	15	3	21	215	2	668/1,555 (43)
Week 47	129	6	1	13	52	1	202/1,555 (13)
Ever ICU	209	17	9	33	147	2	417/28,718 (1)^a
Pre-Phase 1 & Phase 1 (17 weeks)	76	13	9	7	67	1	173/417 (41)
Phase 2 (5 weeks)	6	0	0	1	2	0	9/417 (2)
Phase 3a (11.5 weeks)	25	1	0	7	15	1	49/417 (12)
Phase 3b (9 weeks, excluding week 47)	79	3	0	13	57	0	152/417 (36)
Week 47	23	0	0	5	6	0	34/417 (8)
Deaths	175	3	6	6	164	0	354/28,718 (1)^a
Pre-Phase 1 & Phase 1 (17 weeks)	55	2	5	0	83	0	145/354 (41)
Phase 2 (5 weeks)	22	0	0	0	5	0	27/354 (8)
Phase 3a (11.5 weeks)	20	0	0	1	25	0	46/354 (13)
Phase 3b (9 weeks, excluding week 47)	44	1	1	4	38	0	88/354 (25)
Week 47	34	0	0	1	13	0	48/354 (14)

a. Cases with unknown outcome are included in the denominators (i.e. assumed not to have the specified severe outcome).

Figure 10. COVID-19 hospitalization admissions (n=1,538) and deaths (n= 337), BC January 15, 2020 (week 3) – November 21, 2020 (week 47)



E. Age profile, severe outcomes

As shown in [Table 2](#) and [Figure 11](#), adults 70+ years comprise 10% of COVID-19 cases, commensurate with their share of the general population of BC (13%), but are greatly over-represented among hospitalizations (44%) and deaths (86%).

Older adults 60-69 years comprise 8% of COVID-19 cases, and a greater proportion of hospitalizations (17%) but a commensurate proportion of deaths (10%) relative to their share of the BC population (13%).

Adults 40-59 years comprise 28% of COVID-19 cases and 26% of hospitalizations, which is commensurate with their share of the BC population (27%), but they are under-represented among COVID-19 deaths (5%).

Adults 20-39 years comprise a greater share of COVID-19 cases (42%) than their share of the BC population (28%), but are under-represented among COVID-19 hospitalizations (12%) and deaths (<1%).

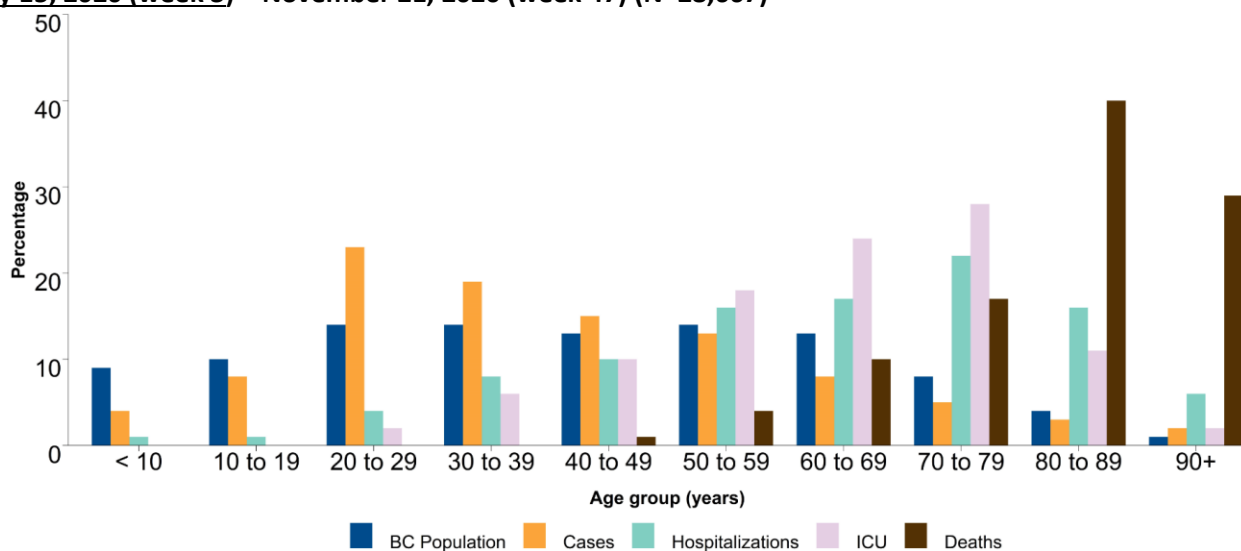
Children <20 years are under-represented overall among COVID-19 cases (12%) as well as severe outcomes (2% or less), relative to their share of the BC general population (19%).

Median age after vs. before Phase 3a is younger for hospitalizations (64 vs. 69 years) but unchanged for deaths (85 vs. 85 years).

Table 2. Age distribution^a: COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, ICU admissions, deaths and BC population January 15, 2020 (week 3) – November 21, 2020 (week 47)

Age group (years)	Cases n (%)	Hospitalizations n (%)	ICU n (%)	Deaths n (%)	General BC population n (%)
<10	1,110 (4)	18 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	469,351 (9)
10-19	2,418 (8)	11 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	527,805 (10)
20-29	6,708 (23)	62 (4)	9 (2)	0 (0)	697,691 (14)
30-39	5,505 (19)	125 (8)	26 (6)	1 (<1)	735,052 (14)
40-49	4,284 (15)	148 (10)	40 (10)	4 (1)	646,035 (13)
50-59	3,741 (13)	249 (16)	77 (18)	14 (4)	718,272 (14)
60-69	2,265 (8)	267 (17)	99 (24)	35 (10)	673,131 (13)
70-79	1,315 (5)	336 (22)	115 (28)	59 (17)	435,062 (8)
80-89	877 (3)	247 (16)	44 (11)	140 (40)	187,443 (4)
90+	444 (2)	91 (6)	7 (2)	101 (29)	49,726 (1)
Total	28,667	1,554	417	354	5,139,568
Median age	37	66	65	85	41

Figure 11. COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, ICU admissions and deaths by age group, BC January 15, 2020 (week 3) – November 21, 2020 (week 47) (N=28,667)^a



a. Among those with available age information only.

F. Likely sources of infection

As shown in [Table 3](#) and [Figure 12](#), local contact with a known case or cluster has most often been considered the source of infection across all pandemic phases to date.

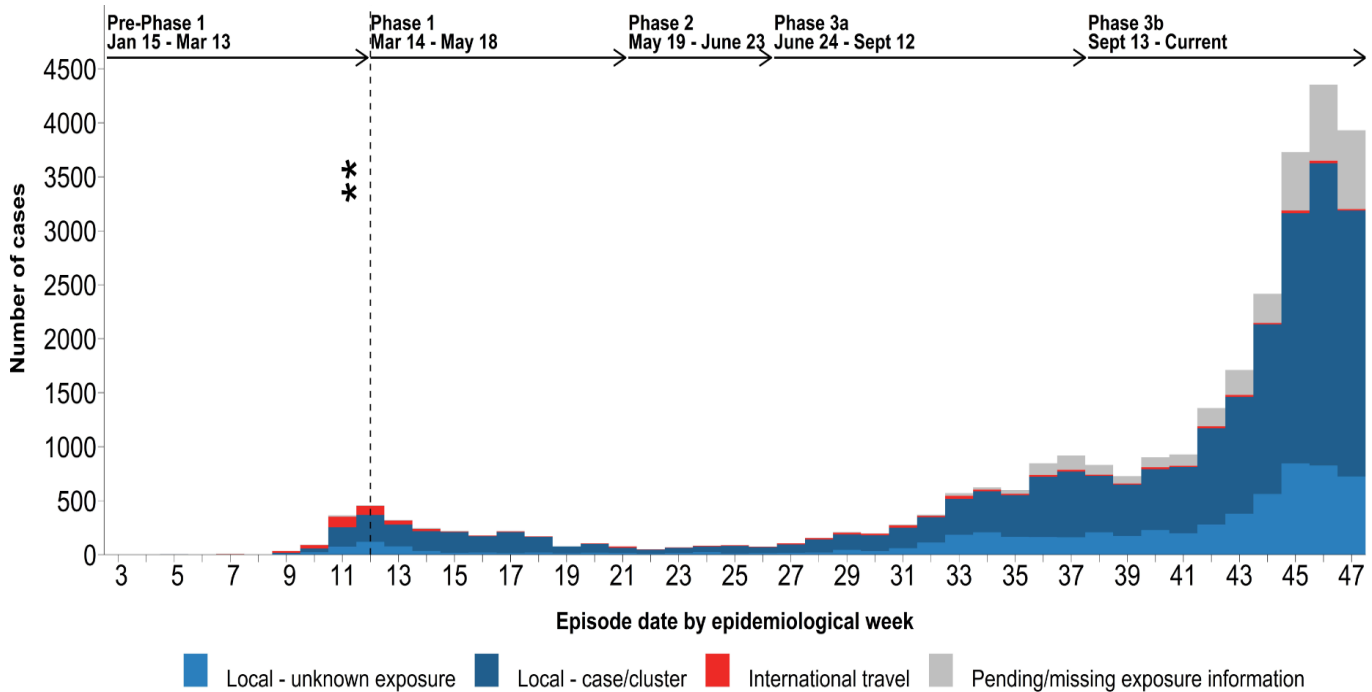
Prior to Phase 1, international travel was also a frequently cited source of SARS-CoV-2 infection in part reflecting high risk testing that targeted returning travelers. However, travel-related restrictions introduced in Phase 1 limited that contribution thereafter with clusters, such as in care facility settings, becoming a more prominent source.

Since around mid-Phase 3a more cases have cited unknown local exposure or that information remained pending or missing. International travel has been cited less often since Phase 3b and these patterns have been generally maintained through week 47 during which international travel was cited <1%.

Table 3. Likely source of COVID-19 infection by pandemic phase of episode date, British Columbia January 15, 2020 (week 3) – November 21, 2020 (week 47)

Phase n (row %)	International travel	Local – case/cluster	Local - unknown	Pending/missing
Pre-Phase 1	135 (30)	208 (46)	97 (21)	14 (3)
Phase 1	188 (9)	1,499 (72)	350 (17)	43 (2)
Phase 2	30 (8)	262 (70)	82 (22)	2 (1)
Phase 3a	181 (4)	3,208 (65)	1,174 (24)	356 (7)
Phase 3b (excluding week 47)	149 (1)	10,836 (64)	3,698 (22)	2,275 (13)
Week 47	13 (<1)	2,463 (63)	724 (18)	731 (19)
Total	696 (2)	18,476 (64)	6,125 (21)	3,421 (12)

Figure 12. Likely source of COVID-19 infection by episode date, British Columbia January 15, 2020 (week 3) – November 21, 2020 (week 47)



** March 16: Travel related restrictions introduced.

G. Care facility outbreaks

As shown in [Table 4](#) and [Figure 13](#) 185 care facility outbreaks were reported in total in BC to the end of week 47. There were 23 new care facility outbreaks reported in week 47 (16 of which were reported by FHA, 4 by VCHA, 1 by IHA, and 2 by VIHA), with 15 of these outbreaks having earliest onset date in preceding weeks. Facility outbreak tallies by earliest onset date are highest thus far in week 46 (23 outbreaks).

Thirty-one of the 48 deaths in total reported in week 47 in BC involved adults in a care facility setting in Fraser Health Authority (22 deaths) or Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (9 deaths). All of these 31 deaths were elderly adults 70+ years.

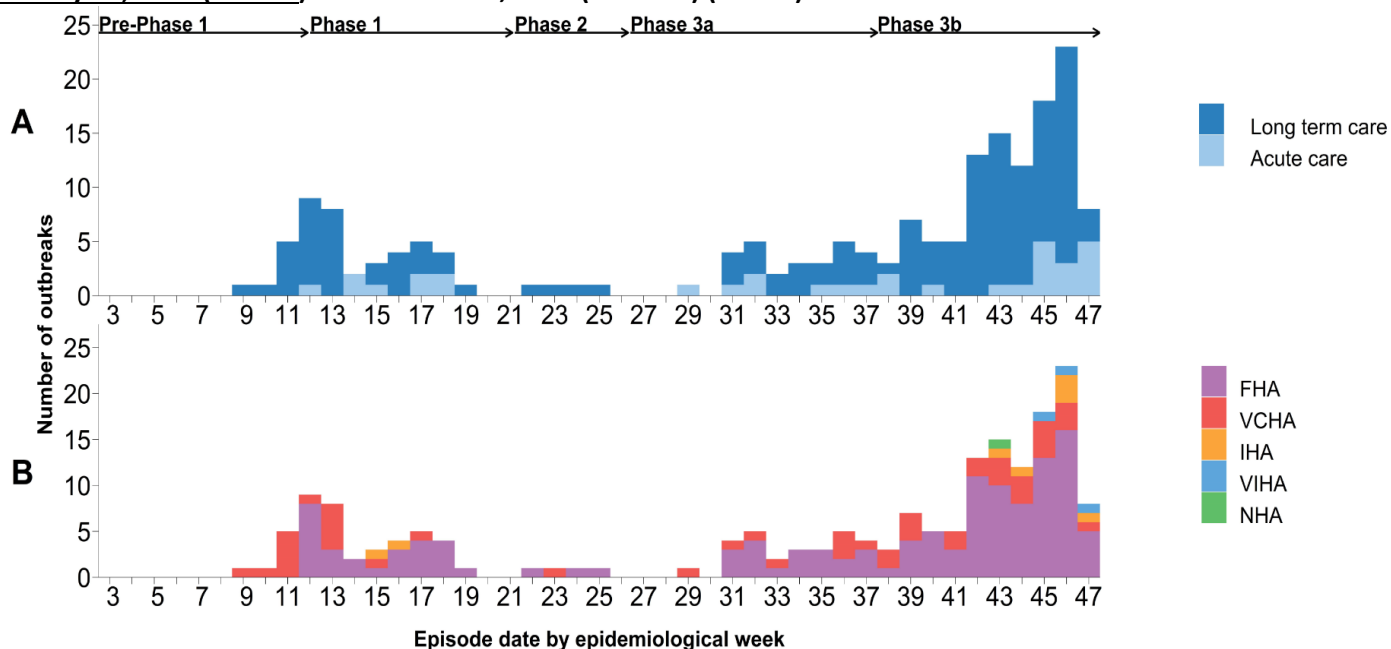
Of 20,889 cases overall in BC with episode date in Phase 3b (i.e. weeks 38-47), 1,210 (6%) were associated with a care facility outbreak, a proportion similar to Phase 3a overall (185/4,919; 4%), but lower than before Phase 3a (602/2,910; 21%).

Two-thirds of all COVID-19 deaths in BC have been associated with care facility outbreaks (239/354; 68%). Of those 239 facility outbreak-associated deaths, one-third have occurred since the week 38 start of Phase 3b (80; 33%).

Table 4. COVID-19 care facility outbreaks^a and associated cases and deaths by phase of episode date, BC January 15, 2020 (week 3) – November 21, 2020 (week 47) (N=185)

	Outbreaks	Cases				Deaths			
		Residents	Staff/visitors	Unknown	Total	Residents	Staff/visitors	Unknown	Total
Total	185	1,157	828	12	1,997	237	0	2	239
Pre-/Phase One (17 weeks)	45	326	207	0	533	96	0	0	96
Phase 2 (5 weeks)	4	51	18	0	69	24	0	0	24
Phase 3a (11.5 weeks)	27	92	93	0	185	39	0	0	39
Phase 3b (9 weeks, excluding week 47)	101	433	380	6	819	49	0	0	49
Week 47	8	255	130	6	391	29	0	2	31
Active outbreaks ^b	66	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Outbreaks declared over ^b	119	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Figure 13. COVID-19 care facility outbreaks^a by earliest case onset^c, facility type (A) and health authority^d (B), BC January 15, 2020 (week 3) – November 21, 2020 (week 47) (N=185)



a. Long term care facilities include: group homes (community living), independent living, assisted living, and other residential facilities. Care facility (acute/long-term care/independent living) outbreaks have at least one lab-confirmed COVID-19 staff or resident.
 b. As of November 21, 2020
 c. Earliest dates of onset of outbreak cases are subject to change as investigations and data are updated.
 d. FHA=Fraser; VCHA=Vancouver Coastal; IHA=Interior; VIHA=Vancouver Island; NHA=Northern Health Authorities

H. Clinical indicators

HealthLink calls ([Figure 14](#)) related to COVID-19 have shown an overall increasing trend from week 32 to 40 at ~13,500 calls per week but decreasing in later weeks reaching just over 10,000 calls in week 43. Calls have gradually increased thereafter, reaching ~15,000 calls in week 47.

BC Medical Services Plan (MSP) general practitioner claims ([Figure 15](#)) related to COVID-19 (including telehealth billings) showed slight increase from week 37 reaching >5,000 visits in week 40 but decreasing thereafter to around 3,200 visits in weeks 42 and 43, before increasing again in weeks 46 and 47 to ~4,800.

Figure 14. HealthLink BC calls related to COVID-19, BC
March 1, 2020 (week 10) – November 21, 2020 (week 47)

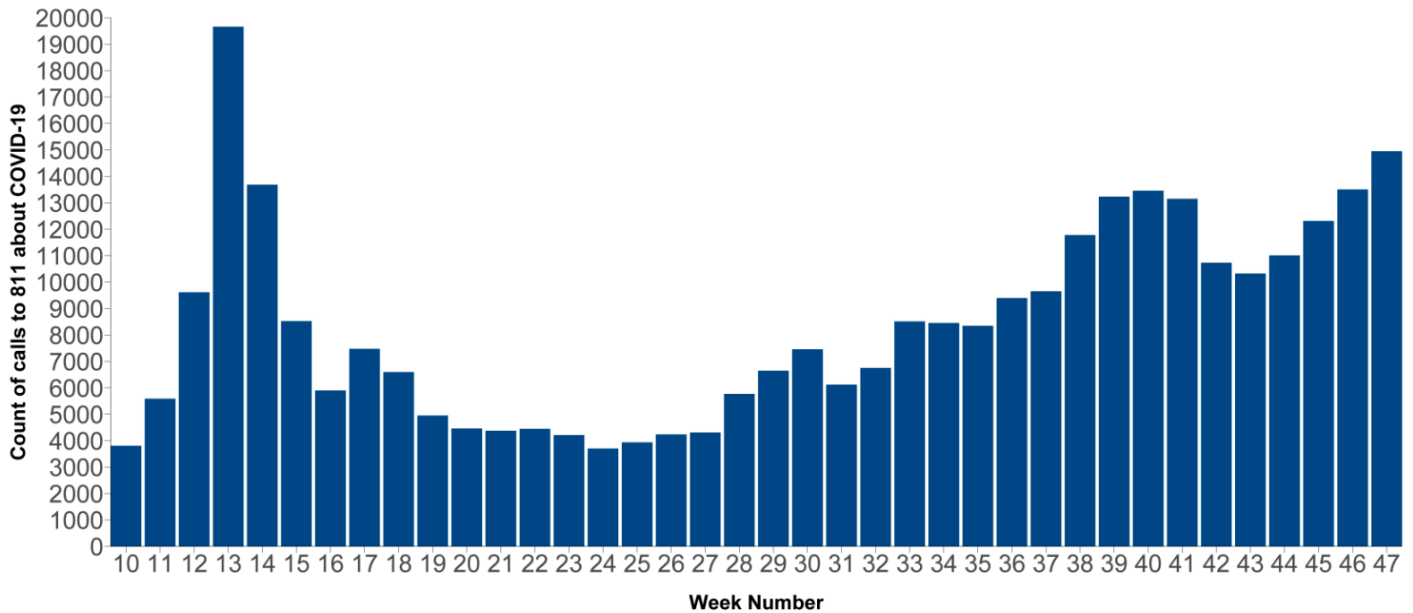


Figure 15. Medical Service Plan (MSP) claims (including telehealth billings) for COVID-19, BC
March 1, 2020 (week 10) – November 21, 2020 (week 47)

