



Office of the Chief Medical Health Officer

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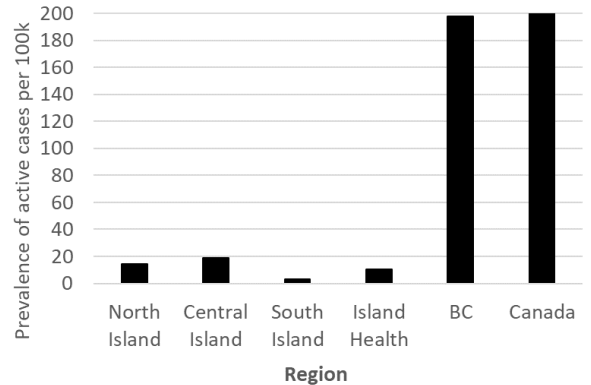
After Hours On Call 1.800.204.6166

December 16, 2020

COVID-19 Update #10

Situational assessment:

- The prevalence of active COVID-19 cases has increased within Island Health during November, however we continue to have much lower levels compared to BC and Canada as a whole.
The average number of cases per day in Island Health quadrupled in early November, plateaued at an average of 16-20 cases a day mid-November, and has decreased to an average of 11.3 cases a day so far in December.
Many cases in November acquired their infection off-island, or from a visitor from the mainland. Since new provincial restrictions were put in place, including a recommendation against non-essential travel, fewer Island Health cases have acquired COVID-19 in this manner.
7-day lab testing percent positivity is 0.9%. Comparably, the 7-day percent positivity for BC is 6.3%. We recommend maintaining a low threshold to test symptomatic patients for COVID-19, and have them self-isolate or if in-hospital placed on droplet precautions pending swab result.
From November 1 to date, 24 Island Health cases have been hospitalized (5% of all cases identified during this time). Of these, 8 have been admitted to ICU, and 2 have died, both related to the outbreak at Saanich Peninsula Hospital.
So far in December, >90% of those seeking testing through the Call Centre have been tested within 24h of their call. For clients requiring COVID-19 testing but are unable to attend a testing site in-person, mobile testing may be available. Either direct clients to make this request when booking a test, or call 1-844-901-8442 on their behalf and request mobile testing.
COVID-19 cases continue to be contacted within 24h of notification of a positive test result, and contacts are typically traced and managed within 24 hours as well. Cases and contacts receive daily virtual follow-up until they have successfully completed required periods of self-isolation or quarantine. Please note: this monitoring is predominantly for public health reasons (to ensure isolation and determine if contacts have developed symptoms), and does not replace clinical care. For select COVID-19 cases requiring a higher level of monitoring in the community, Intensive Home Monitoring is available upon referral: intranet.viha.ca/departments/hcc/hcc_index/Pages/i hm.aspx
The majority of cases in Island Health have an identified source of infection. There is no current concern for sustained community transmission anywhere within Island Health.





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**MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICERS'
NEWSLETTER
No. 323**

December 16, 2020

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Updates:

- The Medical Health Officers are now covering regional COVID-19 portfolios, as below, with each portfolio being covered by at least one MHO every day of the week. To do so, our work schedules are staggered, and therefore there will be weekdays where certain MHOs are not working. We continue to cover our Geos for non-COVID-19 work and engagement. The administrative assistants can assist in directing inquires (numbers to the left).
 - Rural, Remote, and Indigenous: Drs. Shannon Waters & Charmaine Enns
 - Underserved, Schools, and Community: Drs. Dee Hoyano & Sandra Allison
 - LTC, Acute Care, and Healthcare Workers: Drs. Murray Fyfe & Mike Benusic
- COVID-19 vaccination has begun in BC this week, with initial targeting to the Lower Mainland where the highest burden of cases and mortality is located. Distribution in Island Health will begin this month, with the initial prioritization to long-term care workers. The vaccine roll-out will be a dynamic process, and information on vaccine safety, efficacy, prioritization, and distribution will be updated at:
 - gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/vaccines
 - medicalstaff.islandhealth.ca/covid-19/vaccine

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: updated when a new case is reported, also lists exposures (including schools) of COVID-19 within Island Health and outbreaks (currently only Saanich Peninsula Hospital)
 - BCCDC: bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data: all of BC and by Health Authority, Health Service Delivery Area, and Local Health Area, also includes weekly in-depth situation reports
- Updates on outbreaks: intranet.viha.ca/covid-19/Lists/outbreaks/Active.aspx
- Provincial restrictions: gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/restrictions