

### Spring Boosters for Long-Term Care & Novavax Coming Soon

This week Dr. Bonnie Henry shared that British Columbia (BC) is rolling out fourth doses of COVID-19 vaccine for seniors over 70, Indigenous people aged 55 and older, and those who are considered clinically extremely vulnerable. The [booster program](#) is aimed at the highest risk groups who are now six months since their first booster shot (third dose), and who may be experiencing waning protection, especially from the Omicron variant. Spring boosters are being offered to residents in long-term care and assisted living care homes starting this week. Vaccines being offered include Pfizer and Moderna.

Dr. Henry also shared that Novavax is expected to arrive in BC later this week or early next, and will provide an alternative to the mRNA vaccines. She reiterated that the best protection against serious illness or death is to be up-to-date on your vaccines, and urged anyone due for a booster in [any age group to receive a booster dose](#). She also confirmed that BC will no longer require vaccine cards to be shown at public venues starting April 8, though businesses can keep requiring proof of vaccination if they wish.

On behalf of everyone at Island Health, we would like to express our gratitude for your partnership and support of the COVID-19 pandemic response. The mass immunization effort was both complex and challenging. The support of primary care providers in the community has been essential to the successful rollout of the life-saving vaccine. This week Dr. Henry talked about new modelling that is showing the overall pandemic situation is much better now than it was a few months ago, despite a small increase in hospitalizations in the past few days. Thank you for helping make the Island Health region one of the most vaccinated jurisdictions in the world.

Island Health Region Total Vaccines Administered To Date	% Population Immunized (12+) 2nd Dose To Date	% Population Immunized (5+) 2nd Dose To Date	% Population Immunized (12+) Two Doses & Boosters To Date
<b>1,959, 771</b>	<b>93.3%</b>	<b>90.2%</b>	<b>62.2%</b>

#### NEW RESOURCES

##### [BCCDC COVID-19 Treatments – Update](#)

- The British Columbia COVID-19 Therapeutics Committee updated the most current research on the use of therapies in the management of COVID-19 on April 5, 2022.

##### [BCCDC Prescribing Therapies for Mild-Moderate COVID-19 – Update](#)

- This update is for all nurse practitioners, family physicians, and specialists and was released March 22, 2022.

##### [Rapid antigen tests available on PPE Portal](#)

- Family doctors and specialists in community practice can now [log into the Health PPE Portal](#) to place orders for COVID-19 rapid antigen tests (RATs) to be provided at no cost to their clinics.

### [Island Health Medical Staff Webpage for Management and Treatment of COVID-19](#)

- Compiled COVID-19 information and frequently asked questions for physicians and medical staff updated on March 22, 2022.

### [Masking Requirements](#)

- Masking requirements remain in place and in accordance with [Ministry of Health policy](#), masks must be worn by all persons visiting a health-care facility, including hospitals, health centres, physician's offices and outpatient clinics.

### [Primary Care Grand Rounds](#)

- The Greening of Healthcare – [Add Event to Calendar](#)
- Dr. Caroline Stigant & Dr. Jean Maskey & Dr. Valeria Stoyanova
- May 17, 2022 – 6:30-7:30pm
- Objectives:
  - 1) Understand that the climate crisis is a health crisis
  - 2) Understand the sources of health care related carbon pollution
  - 3) Identify three ways in which you can use a planetary health lens to fight climate change in your practice.



### [Past Issues of the Island Health Primary Care Update](#)

The Island Health Archive for past issues of the Primary Care Update.

## LINKS & FAQs

### **BCCDC Resources:**

- [New Today](#): This section of the website highlights the latest guidance documents and updates to the website for health professionals.
- [About the vaccines](#)
- [Resources for Health Professionals](#)
- [Reporting adverse events](#)

### **Doctors of BC:**

- [Info for doctors getting or giving the vaccine](#)
- [Updated toolkit for doctors' offices](#)

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

- [ImmunizeBC FAQ](#)