

***September 29, 2021 – New Booster Doses & COVID Cases in Youth***

Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry [shared a presentation](#) yesterday on how well vaccinations are working, and plans for booster doses of vaccine. For the majority of people, two doses are providing excellent protection, including against the Delta variant. This includes those who had a mix of two different vaccines.

Dr. Henry says starting next week, BC will begin offering booster doses to residents in long-term care, in conjunction with providing immunization against influenza. She says the data shows timing of this booster dose should be six months after the second dose. Her announcement coincides with yesterday's [recommendation](#) from the National Advisory Council on Immunization (NACI) that offering a booster dose to long-term care residents will help to enhance protection and prevent outbreaks.

Yesterday's briefing also shared that there's been a dramatic increase in COVID-19 cases among school-aged children, particularly in areas of the province with lower vaccination rates. The modelling presentation showed 1,086 cases involving people under the age of 18 in the week ending September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Island Health and other health authorities are again [posting school exposure](#) notifications on our websites, if COVID-positive staff or students attended school during their infectious period.

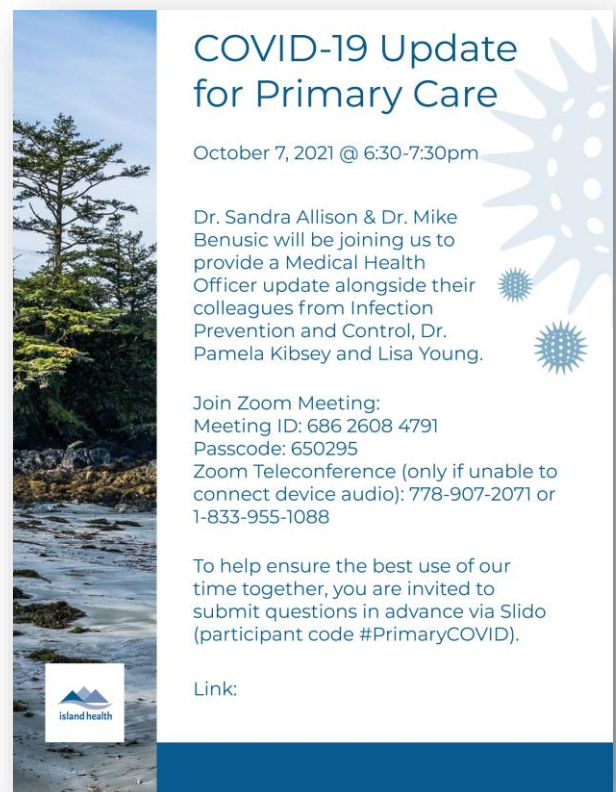
As you are aware, on September 13, 2021 Dr. Henry announced all health sector employees (including contracted service providers, contracted suppliers and volunteers working within the public health system) will be required to be fully vaccinated (two doses) against COVID-19 by October 26, 2021. The PHO Order in support of the September 13<sup>th</sup> decision, with specific details, is expected to be issued in the coming days.

[COVID-19 Zoom Update for Primary Care \(Meeting Link\)](#)

Dr. Sandra Allison & Dr. Mike Benusic will be providing a Medical Health Officer update alongside their colleagues from Infection Prevention and Control, Dr. Pamela Kibsey and Lisa Young.

Why not [ask a question](#)? #PrimaryCOVID

- Meeting ID: **686 2608 4791** Passcode: **650295**
- Zoom Teleconference (only if unable to connect device audio): **778-907-2071 or 1-833-955-1088**



**COVID-19 Update  
for Primary Care**


October 7, 2021 @ 6:30-7:30pm

Dr. Sandra Allison & Dr. Mike Benusic will be joining us to provide a Medical Health Officer update alongside their colleagues from Infection Prevention and Control, Dr. Pamela Kibsey and Lisa Young.

Join Zoom Meeting:  
Meeting ID: 686 2608 4791  
Passcode: 650295  
Zoom Teleconference (only if unable to connect device audio): 778-907-2071 or 1-833-955-1088

To help ensure the best use of our time together, you are invited to submit questions in advance via Slido (participant code #PrimaryCOVID).

Link:



Island Health Region Total Vaccines Administered To Date	% Population Immunized (18+) 1st Dose To Date	% Population Immunized (12+) 1st Dose To Date	% Population Immunized (18+) 2nd Dose To Date
<b>1,312,424</b>	<b>89.7%</b>	<b>89.3%</b>	<b>83.2%</b>

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

### Do you have questions around infection prevention and control practices in your office?

- The Island Health Infection and Prevention Control and Environmental Health teams are able to help. Questions can be sent to [IPAC.Enquiries@IslandHealth.ca](mailto:IPAC.Enquiries@IslandHealth.ca) with the subject line “**Primary Care**” and will be answered as soon as possible based on team capacity. As we get a sense of the types of questions coming in, we will work to develop some frequently asked questions and answers and share these out through our Primary Care Newsletters.

### COVID-19 Testing for Primary Care Providers and Healthcare Workers

- A reminder to all primary care providers that our priority call line is still in service. If testing is recommended, symptomatic can access priority COVID-19 testing by calling 1-833-737-9377 – seven days a week - 8AM - 4PM. Our call centre will slot you into the next available spot.
- If you have symptoms and you feel ill, please stay home. As we head into the fall, we all must remain vigilant to keep COVID and its variants – as well as other respiratory viruses – out of our offices and communities. Please note: priority testing is only available to care providers. Family, friends and office staff are required to continue using the general call centre line: 1-844-901-8442, daily from 8AM-4PM.

### Valid Contraindications and Deferrals to COVID-19 Vaccination – Office of the BC Provincial Health Officer

- BC Provincial Health Officer guidance on valid contraindications and deferrals to COVID-19 vaccination for support of medical accommodation under the Provincial Health Officer COVID-19 Vaccination Status Information and Preventive Measures Order.

### New and Expanded General Practices Service Committee (GPSC) Fees and Information Webinar

- GPSC is introducing new fees to support family doctors providing longitudinal and team-based care and expanding two fees to support family doctors providing care to patients with mental health needs and patients at risk of substance use disorder.
  - [Information webinar on Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. PT](#)

### Find a COVID-19 Immunization Clinic or Vax Van Stop

- Find Island Health region [immunization clinic listings](#).

### **Island Health Email Addresses Changing**

- Effective September 28th, you'll notice any email coming from your Island Health contacts will change from @viha.ca to @islandhealth.ca. While @viha.ca will continue to work for now – please update your contacts with the new addresses. If you have an @viha.ca email account – you should update your signature block with your new @islandhealth.ca email address to alert your contacts to this change.

### **LINKS, RESOURCES & 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](#)