

### ***August 11, 2021 – Immunization Walk-Ins Welcome & Dose Interval Changes***

Weather in the Island Health region and COVID-19 cases are heating up this week. Environment Canada has issued heat warnings for [East Vancouver Island](#), [Inland Vancouver Island](#), [Greater Victoria](#) and the [Southern Gulf Islands](#).

Rising COVID-19 case counts throughout BC and in Island Health region show a significant increase in COVID-19 cases. New cases are primarily affecting younger age groups who are less likely to be fully immunized. Upwards of 90% of cases are in people who are unvaccinated or who have had only one dose of vaccine. At this week's Island Health Staff and Medical Staff Town Hall, Medical Health Officer Dr. Murray Fyfe shared that a 10% boost in our immunization rate can stop the trajectory we are on, and he called on Island Health staff and medical staff to champion and advocate immunization with our friends, family and co-workers. "I know that is not always easy to do, but we know that 30% of people who are not yet immunized plan to get the vaccine, and another 30% are taking a wait and see approach. We can really make a difference if we convince those individuals to get immunized now," said Dr. Fyfe.



Early this week the province shortened the time frame for second doses of COVID-19 vaccine to 28 days. Dr. Henry says this may be helpful in areas experiencing outbreaks, but still notes that you may get a better immune response to the vaccine if you wait 6-8 weeks between doses. To make the process as easy as possible for everyone, and following the kick-off with Walk-in Wednesday on August 4th, all Island Health COVID-19 immunization clinics are now accepting walk-ins for doses 1 and 2. On August 4<sup>th</sup> we had 4,002 people within Island Health being vaccinated without an appointment, which was 23.8% of all walk-ins across the province. The Victoria Conference Centre welcomed 891 walk-ins, the second highest in the province, just a few behind Richmond at 914, and Eagle Ridge in Langford received the 6th highest in BC, at 784. People can still make an appointment, but it is no longer required.

One affiliate partner long-term care (LTC) home in Island Health has declared an outbreak, one is on enhanced surveillance, and one Assisted Living (AL) site is being monitored after staff members tested positive for COVID-19. On August 4th, an outbreak was declared at Discovery Harbour in Campbell River after three staff members tested positive. No residents are experiencing symptoms and the risk remains low. The three staff members are self-isolating at home. The LTC home on enhanced surveillance and the AL site being monitored are because staff tested positive, highlighting the importance of getting fully vaccinated. The provincial [Single Site Order](#) has been amended through Sept 30 to allow fully vaccinated long-term care employees to work casual shifts at more than one site within a cluster of up to approximately three LTC facilities. This change is to allow more flexibility in staffing during the summer months.

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>1,212,799</b>	<b>81.0%</b>	<b>80.2%</b>	<b>72.6%</b>

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

### [COVID-19 Vaccination Clinical Guidance](#)

- This document provides guidance regarding frequently asked questions related to clinical aspects of COVID-19 vaccination. It is considered the Island Health 'source of truth' and is reviewed by the Clinical Advisory Group with accountability resting with the Physician Lead, Mass Vaccination Planning.

### [No Island Health COVID-19 Testing for Personal Travel Reasons](#)

- Island Health provides testing for people who are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, and individuals who are concerned they may have been exposed to COVID-19. We do not provide testing and documentation for travel purposes. [Travel clinics and some private labs](#) provide testing and necessary documentation for a fee.

### [Find a COVID-19 Immunization Clinic](#)

- **Please do not call the clinics or sites directly.** Find answers to questions about the vaccine and immunization process on Island Health's [vaccine page](#) and at [ImmunizeBC](#).

### [BCCDC Immunization Manual \(Updated\)](#)

- This updated document includes information regarding the new time frame between the first and second dose of COVID-19 vaccine and information about how to care for/handle vaccine shipments.

## 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](#)
- <https://www.doctorsofbc.ca/news/cev-attestation-form-available-doctors>

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

- [ImmunizeBC FAQ](#)