

February 9, 2022

Today, Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry provided [an update on vaccination requirements for health professionals](#), expanding the vaccine mandate for health-care workers and health practitioners regulated by BC's health-care colleges that were not included in the previous vaccine mandate. (Click the link to see the full list) The vaccination deadline under the new order is March 24 for all health-care practitioners who were not covered by the initial order October 26th, which included staff and medical staff in health authorities, hospitals and long term care. The new vaccine mandate is set to be rolled out in a phased manner and there will also be opportunities for those under the mandate to provide medical exemptions.

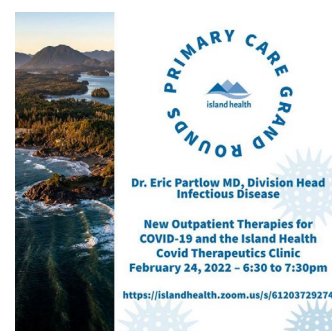
Dr. Bonnie Henry also indicated that restrictions will begin to be lifted when the gatherings and events order expires on February 16th. She says next week, we'll hear "less about the pandemic and more about how we manage our personal risk as restrictions are adjusted. We're all tired...We want it to end - but wanting it to end and taking the right measures to get us through this are two different things. Changes made will continue to be based on science and circumstances of our pandemic here in BC."

Grand Rounds February 24 – 6:30pm to 7:30pm

Learn about new Outpatient Therapies for COVID-19 and the Island Health COVID Therapeutics Clinic.

Presented by Dr. Eric Partlow MD, Division Head Infectious Disease.

Join on Zoom: <https://islandhealth.zoom.us/j/61203729274>



ISLAND HEALTH: TOTAL VACCINES ADMINISTERED TO DATE	12+: % OF POPULATION IMMUNIZED (DOSE 2) TO DATE	5+: % OF POPULATION IMMUNIZED (DOSE 2) TO DATE	12+: % OF POPULATION IMMUNIZED (2 DOSES + BOOSTER) TO DATE
1,883,849	91.9%	86.6%	55.1%

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

NEW NACI RECOMMENDATION ON BOOSTERS AFTER COVID ILLNESS

Canada's National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) now recommends people who get infected with COVID should wait three months before getting a booster shot. In [recommendations released Feb 4](#), NACI said a longer interval between infection and vaccination, "...may result in a better immune response, as this allows time for this response to mature in breadth and strength, and for circulating antibodies to decrease, thus avoiding immune interference when the vaccine is administered."

For vaccinated individuals who are eligible for a third dose (ages 12 and older), the recommendations suggest waiting three months after the onset of symptoms, or following a positive test for anyone who was asymptomatic — while also being at least six months out from a second dose.

The guidelines recommend those who experienced COVID infection before starting or completing their primary vaccine series may receive their next dose eight weeks after symptoms started or after testing positive.

THIRD DOSE RECOMMENDED FOR IMMUNOCOMPROMISED CHILDREN (AGES 5-11)

BCCDC guidance has been updated to note that children ages 5-11 who are moderately to severely immunocompromised, should receive a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine as part of their primary set. Like adults, these children may not develop a strong enough immune response with only two doses of vaccine, and need three doses to achieve the level of protection that most people get with two doses. Read more on the [BCCDC website](#).

COMMUNITY VIRTUAL CARE (CVC)

CVC (also known as Home Health Monitoring) uses virtual care technologies to offer monitoring solutions to support at-risk patients remotely and to educate patients on their health conditions. The monitoring component of the program allows Community Health Nurses to safely and effectively monitor their patients' while they are in their home, and the education component is designed to improve the patient's co-management abilities.

There is no cost to participate in the CVC service, and all devices are provided on loan to patients. The devices are easy to use and technical support is readily available.

CVC currently support patients with a confirmed diagnosis of:

- Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder (COPD)
- Diabetes
- Heart Failure
- Hypertension

To enroll your patient, contact your local Community Access Centre, using a dedicated Professional Line

- South Island: (250) 388-2210; fax 250-519-5288
- Central Island: (250) 739-5748 or toll-free 1(877) 734-4141; fax 250-739-5751
- North Island: (250) 331-8530 or toll-free 1(866) 921-0811; fax 250-331-8569

For more information: [Home Health Monitoring](#)

PRESCRIBING NATURE IS GOOD FOR PATIENTS

Health-care providers are always looking for simple, practical interventions they can make to improve their patients' lives. Almost anyone can increase the time they spend in nature, no matter what their physical abilities are or where they live. A [growing body of research](#) suggests that spending time in nature has a wide range of positive effects on human health, from reduced chronic disease to improved birth outcomes—over and above the benefits of exercise. Learn more about the health benefits of nature and the BC Parks "Prescription for Nature" program [here](#).



CLINICAL PRACTICE TOOLS TO NAVIGATE COVID-19 THERAPIES

The BC COVID-19 Therapeutics Committee (BC CTC) has created a comprehensive set of new clinical practice tools to help physicians navigate the multiple therapies for COVID-19. These tools work together as a package. Find the list of clinical tools on the [Medical Staff website](#).

PROVINCIAL MODELLING: HOSPITALIZATIONS IN BC

On Tuesday, February 1st, Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry provided an update on COVID-19 hospitalizations in BC, noting that she believed we were at the peak of admissions at that time. A review compared the impacts of the Delta variant against Omicron, showing that 90% of new hospital admissions are people with Omicron. People with Delta stay in hospital longer and are more likely to have severe illness. The vast majority of Delta cases were in hospital because of COVID, while 60-70% of those with Omicron were hospitalized for other reasons and subsequently tested positive for COVID.

“The level of immunity that we have in our community has protected our health-care system at this most critical time, even with the numbers of people who needed hospital care,” Dr. Henry said. “So while it is under severe strain, it is to the credit of so many who have stepped up and got protection that our hospitals are coping even though we're stretched.” You can view the [hospitalization presentation here](#).

POINT OF CARE RISK ASSESSMENT & N95s

The BCCDC has updated the [Point of Care Risk Assessment](#) (PCRA) reference document to include a second page that outlines situations and scenarios where the donning of an N95 would be appropriate today. In addition to wearing an N95 in areas where AGMPs may occur, the new guidance categorizes areas of elevated risk.

PAY PARKING RESUMES IN MARCH

The Ministry of Health [announced](#) the resumption of pay parking at health facilities in BC on March 4th. In Island Health, **pay parking and parking enforcement will resume on Friday, March 4th**, at all sites that previously had pay parking prior to April 2020, and at the same parking rates. Physicians who have existing permits will be receiving renewal notices in the mail soon.



PREVIOUS ISSUES OF THE ISLAND HEALTH PRIMARY CARE UPDATE

[Click here](#) to find archived issues of the Primary Care Update.

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](#)