

## New COVID-19 Booster & Outpatient Treatment Clinics – January 12, 2022



Today in the Island Health region there were 371 newly-confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 66 COVID-19 patients in hospital, including 17 recovered patients who are no longer contagious. The number of COVID-19 patients in hospital has been relatively stable in the past week. The Delta variant of COVID-19 continues to drive hospitalizations and critical care admissions within Island Health, while the Omicron variant is exhibiting less serious illness and less risk of hospitalization for the significant majority of people who are fully immunized.

### [Outpatient COVID-19 Therapeutics Clinic](#)

New COVID-19 therapies are becoming available for the treatment of outpatients with mild to moderate illness who are at high risk for progression to hospitalization and severe disease. Island Health has established an Outpatient COVID Therapeutics Clinic (OCTC) for the evaluation and treatment of patients who meet criteria for these therapies. Dr. Kelsey Kozoriz is the Medical Lead for this new service with Dr. Eric Partlow providing Infectious Disease guidance.

Sotrovimab is a newly approved intravenous monoclonal antibody therapy, which has been shown to significantly reduce the risk of hospitalization in high risk patients. To be effective, the drug must be given early in the course of illness, within 7 days of symptom onset. Beginning January 10, 2022, sotrovimab will be administered intravenously at 3 outpatient clinics in Island Health at the Royal Jubilee, Nanaimo Regional General, and Campbell River Hospitals. To be eligible, patients must be at high risk for COVID-19 progression to hospitalization or death and must fall into one of the three following categories:

1. over age 55 and unvaccinated, or inadequately vaccinated including those with two doses of non-mRNA vaccine;
2. between 12 and 55 years, unvaccinated or inadequately vaccinated, at increased risk for progression to severe disease due to a comorbid condition;
3. clinically extremely vulnerable patients, regardless of vaccination status, who are unlikely to adequately respond to vaccination.

Other antiviral treatments including Pfizer's Paxlovid and Merck's Molnupiravir are under review by federal health officials and will likely become available in the coming weeks.

The OCTC will actively screen new positive Covid patients on a daily basis. However, it is impossible to detect every potential patient with this mechanism and some patients will need to contact us directly for assessment. Vulnerable patients in your practice can be made aware of these new treatments and if they test positive for COVID-19 we invite them to refer to the website to review eligibility criteria and contact the clinic directly if they feel they are potential candidates for therapy.

OCTC contact information and Resources

Island Health website:

<https://www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/covid-19/outpatient-covid-19-therapeutics-clinic>

To book an appointment: [250-737-2030](tel:250-737-2030), extension 44685

With the amount of virus circulating in our communities, [new outbreaks](#) were identified yesterday in the long term care unit at Saanich Peninsula Hospital, where two staff and three residents have tested positive, and in Oyster Harbour long-term care home in Ladysmith, where one staff and two residents have tested positive. Outbreaks are ongoing in seven other LTC facilities, and several others are on enhanced surveillance. An outbreak is declared when there is transmission at the site; enhanced surveillance is put in place if there is an exposure but no transmission detected.

Island Health Region Total Vaccines Administered To Date	% Population Immunized (12+) 2nd Dose To Date	% Population Immunized (5+) 2nd Dose To Date	% Population Immunized (18+) Two Doses & Boosters To Date
<b>1,670,117</b>	<b>91.2%</b>	<b>85.2%</b>	<b>31.2%</b>

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

### Updated: BCCDC Guidance for COVID-19 Testing for the Public

- BCCDC updated information about when to get tested for COVID-19. To preserve testing capacity, sites may prioritize testing for those at risk of more severe disease or those who live or work in high-risk settings such as healthcare workers.
  - If you have mild symptoms and are fully vaccinated, you do not need a test. Stay home and away from others for five days, and then you can go about your business if you do not have symptoms.

### Post COVID-19 Recovery Clinic Opening Soon

- Opening at Royal Jubilee Hospital in Feb/March 2022, the focus of the clinic is chronic symptom management and offers clinical consults, small therapeutic groups, and zoom education classes for patients exhibiting long COVID symptoms 12 weeks after recovery from acute illness.
- The [referral form](#) is on Pathways and the PHSA central intake for the province is now accepting Island Health referrals; patients will see a provider and the allied Health Team either virtually or in-person.
- Patients must be referred by a physician, nurse practitioner or nurse in a remote nursing station, using the post COVID recovery clinic referral form. Patients may be referred via:
  - automatic referral process in hospital at time of discharge
  - community practitioner
  - RACE line

### **Reminder: Intensive Home Monitoring for Vulnerable Adults with COVID-19 symptoms is Available**

The service runs 7 days a week from 08:00-20:00:

- Intensive Home Monitoring is for vulnerable adults with COVID-19 symptoms (see QRG for eligibility criteria)
- Referral is thorough [Community Access to Community Health Services](#) or <https://intranet.islandhealth.ca/departments/access-transitions/community-access/community-access-centres/Pages/contact-comm-intake.aspx>
- All referrals will be treated as high priority
- More information is available on the [Intensive Home Monitoring intranet site](#) or on the Island Health public site <https://www.islandhealth.ca/our-services/virtual-care-services/covid-19-virtual-monitoring>

### **Updated: Masking Policy at Island Health**

- The Long-Term Care Visitors' section (page 3) has been updated regarding the use of medical-grade masks; information regarding unvaccinated essential visitors has been removed

### **Repost: Island Health PPE during COVID-19 Pandemic**

- This guide applies to all providers and outlines appropriate PPE use across all settings.

### **Expression of Interest for Delivering COVID-19 Vaccines**

- Are you a midwife, nurse practitioner, naturopath or physician interested in joining the team administering COVID-19 vaccines? Island Health invites you to register your interest by completing the survey.

### **Past Issues of the Island Health Primary Care Update**

The Island Health Archive for past 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](#)