

COVID-19 Sixth Wave Hospitalizations Easing – June 1, 2022

The omicron BA.2 COVID-19 variant continues to be the most predominant strain impacting people in the Island Health region. Hospital admissions during the current sixth wave of COVID-19 are significantly lower than several weeks ago, with an average of 10 admission per day, and the majority of those hospitalizations being incidental, where COVID-19 was not the most significant reason for admittance. We are also experiencing fewer and less severe long term care facility outbreaks, and population waste-water samples for the Lower Mainland are showing steady improvement in reduction of disease.

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
2,014,054	93.6%	90.7%	65.2%

NEW RESOURCES

[BCCDC Monkey Pox Information Webpage](#)

The new BCCDC webpage provide information on Monkey Pox symptoms, laboratory testing and diagnosis, infection control precautions, treatment and notification/reporting requirements. For information, the Office of the PHO has posted a [Notice of Duty to Report](#) on Monkeypox on the [PHO public health links page](#), under “health information”. The College of Physicians and Surgeons have also shared it with their members.

- **Special Note: Physicians working in the Island Health region in both the community and in Island Health facilities should first consult with Island Health microbiology, then if required, BCCDC microbiology.**
- Monkey Pox cases world-wide are likely in the 1000s of cases, and the disease has become endemic to parts of Central and Western Africa. The first cases in Canada have recently been reported in Eastern regions of the country.

[COVID-19 CTRAWG Committee: Call for Volunteers](#)

COVID-19 Treatment Review and Advisory Working Group (CTRAWG) is a provincial committee of clinicians and health authority operations directors that provides operational advice to the Ministry of Health on how best to implement new COVID-19 therapies (or changes to COVID therapies i.e. sotrovimab for BA2 variant). The CTRAWG is moving to develop and support a Family Physician (FP) subgroup:

- Please contact Dr. Kelsey Kozoriz (Kelsey.Kozoriz@islandhealth.ca) to learn more and to sign-up.
- Longitudinal family physicians can provide key operational guidance to ensure provincial tools and supports are practical and useful in the current reality of community primary care.
- **Time commitment:** Flexible - Approximately 3-6 hours per month, for 3-4 months.
- **Remuneration:** Reimbursement based on Doctors of BC Sessional rate through the Ministry of Health
- **Work to be conducted:** Virtually

[BC College of Family Physician Awards \(BCCFP\)](#)

Congratulations to the recipients of the 2022 BCCFP awards. More than 350 British Columbians took the time to nominate family doctors from across the province. Dr. Alison Ferg of Island Health region was recognized for an award; [click to read](#) her recognition story.

[Island Health Medicine Grand Rounds on Zoom: Part 3 - Planetary Health – What is your Green Action Plan?](#)

- June 24, 2022 from 8:00-9:00am
- Dr. Caroline Stigant, MSc, FRCP
- Dr. Jean Maskey, MD, FCFP, CCPE

ZOOM Link for June 24:

<https://islandhealth.zoom.us/j/67995693688?pwd=Y0tGOHNJT3hEZjVCZzJLZ1B3eEw1dz09>

Meeting ID: 679 9569 3688 --- Passcode: 451132

[Community Wellness Grant Program: Call for Applications](#)

Island Health's Community Wellness Grant program opened for applications last week, and communities on Vancouver Island will benefit from up to \$800,000 in grants to improve the health and well-being of Island residents. Now in its fifth year, Island Health's Community Wellness Grant program provides the opportunity for not-for-profit organizations, local government organizations and Indigenous Nations, organizations and communities to apply for one-time funding for the development of new wellness initiatives and programs.

[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](#)