



May 12, 2021 – Record-breaking Mass Vaccination in Island Health Region

Today Island Health region achieved ~50% vaccination of our eligible adult population and is on course to exceed yesterday’s one-day record-breaking ~11,000 vaccines delivered. Island Health continues to bend the curve downwards with a transmission rate of ~0.60 per new case and average daily new cases still under ~20 per day, representing a 5-7% decrease from last week. Many individuals who contract COVID-19 across Island Health report no recent close contacts, however contact tracing in the region confirms approximately four close contacts per confirmed case. Acute and emergency care pressures are easing in Island Health facilities, and despite some surgeries being postponed and being replaced by same-day procedures, we are pleased to report that slates are now returning to schedule.

Last week the Province of British Columbia (BC) confirmed almost 400,000 people registered for their vaccine and Dr. Bonnie Henry reported yesterday that 2,219,856 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines have been administered across the BC, 110,516 of which are second doses. Workers will soon have access to a made-in-BC paid sick leave program that will support workers to stay home when they are sick during the pandemic and afterward, including permanent paid sick leave, as a result of legislation tabled yesterday. Health Canada has approved the use of the Pfizer vaccine for youth aged 12 to 17 and B.C. is expanding the COVID-19 Immunization Plan to include this age group. Our immunization program is rapidly accelerating, and by tomorrow, anyone 30 and over will be able to book their appointment. We are also expanding our frontline priority worker immunization this week to include grocery store employees, BC Transit drivers and Canada Post workers in sorting facilities.

As BC looks towards an easing of COVID-19 restrictions if we continue to bend the curve, the Province is ruling out allowing some areas getting back to normal before other areas. Dr. Henry said public-health restrictions are working, however, the re-opening of BC is contingent on more than public vaccination rates and includes required reductions in COVID-19 transmissions, deaths, hospitalizations and intensive-care unit admissions.

Many of you have been requesting more detailed localized data about COVID-19. You can now access [Community Health Service Area level data](#) on case rates and immunization rates.

Island Health Total Vaccines Administered To Date	% Population Immunized - 1st Dose To Date
390, 744	49.9%

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Second Dose Vaccine for Healthcare Workers

- B.C.'s COVID-19 immunization plan calls for a 16-week interval between first and second doses of vaccine.
 - Island Health's call centre is calling all health-care providers who were immunized on or before February 21 to book their second dose appointments in May.
 - If you are in this group and do not receive a call to make an appointment by Wednesday, May 19th, please call Island Health's call centre at 1-844-439-1919 and press 1.
 - Anyone immunized after February 21 **must register with the provincial registration system in order to book your second dose appointment.**
 - Please register now by going to www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca or calling 1-833-838-2323.

COVID-19 Vaccination Aftercare: What to Expect for the First Few Days

- Some of the side effects of the vaccine are similar to symptoms of COVID-19.

Updated: BCCDC Healthcare Provider Q&As for COVID-19 and Vaccines

- This Q&A document includes general information about COVID-19 and vaccines currently in use in BC.
 - COVID-19 vaccine information is evolving, and as such, this Q&A may be updated as new information and new COVID-19 vaccines become available in BC.



Comparing COVID-19 Vaccine Schedule Combinations

- There are now several vaccines in the UK that have been approved for COVID-19, and others are expected to be approved in the near future. These use two-doses, a 'prime' first dose, followed by a 'boost' second dose some weeks later. The purpose of this trial is to see how well people's immune systems respond when their second "boost" dose is a different type of vaccine to their first "prime" dose.

[Pre-Operative Health History and Physical for Patients Requiring an Anesthesia or Internal Medicine Consult](#)

- Those surgical patients in the South Island [Royal Jubilee Hospital (RJH), Victoria General Hospital (VGH) and Saanich Peninsula Hospital (SPH)] who require an Anesthetic or Internal Medicine consult are no longer required to be referred to their primary care provider to complete a pre-operative health history and physical prior to their surgery.

[Island Health Primary Care Grand Rounds](#)

Thursday, May 27, 2021 8:00am - 9:00am | US/Pacific

Dementia Management: Medication & More - Dr. Marilyn Malone

Why not make things interesting and [ask a question?](#)

Objectives:

- Know when to start, stop, or switch cholinesterase inhibitors and/or memantine
- Understand risks and benefits of other medications and their non-pharmacological alternatives in symptom management
- Avoid common pitfalls when evaluating treatment effectiveness



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](#)