



**Office of the
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**MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICERS'
NEWSLETTER
No. 332**

June 7, 2021

COVID-19 Update #15

Updates:

Vaccination

- Over 550,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been provided within Island Health, and ~75% of the adult population has been vaccinated.
- Most people must register to be vaccinated through the provincial system at gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/register, including those in areas with a 'whole community' roll-out (see bit.ly/2RyrX72).
- One dose provides good protection against the variants currently circulating within Island Health. Evidence from the UK suggest that effectiveness against the Delta variant may be low with only 1 dose (bit.ly/3v0p1gW). When people are offered a 2nd dose is based on operational considerations, mainly vaccine supply. We recommend booking an appointment to receive the 2nd dose as soon as eligible, with reassurance that the absolute risk within Island Health is very low, and one dose provides good protection.
- The Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccines are effectively interchangeable and are safe to mix. The product available in clinics will fluctuate depending on supply.
- Those who received AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD as their 1st dose are eligible to receive either AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD or a mRNA vaccine as their 2nd dose; see bit.ly/3w2eTWz
- At this time, AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD is only being offered as 2nd doses. The risk of thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome (TTS) following 2nd dose is ~1 in 600,000, approximately 10x lower than with 1st dose. Refer to provincial guidance for identification and management: bit.ly/3tuCvAP.
- Myocarditis/pericarditis following mRNA vaccination is being monitored provincially (bit.ly/3xiFhvB) and federally (health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/vaccine-safety/). Current rates are not being seen higher than previous to COVID-19 vaccine rollout. No clear association has been established between myocarditis/pericarditis and vaccines.
- COVID-19 vaccine can now be administered at any time in relation to other vaccines, including concurrently; see updated FAQ from BCCDC: bit.ly/3uV1ii7.
- Refer to previous newsletter on guidance on adverse events following immunization (AEFI): bit.ly/3tDIPsd. A new 1-page reporting form is available at bit.ly/2Ta8JFe.

Variants of Concern

- Variants of concern (VOCs) have become the dominant strains in BC and Island Health, mainly B117 and P1. Despite this, COVID-19 rates in BC and Island Health are at the lowest level so far in 2021. A summary of VOCs from the BCCDC can be found at bit.ly/2QTGSYR.

Resources:

- One-stop-shop for medical staff at medicalstaff.islandhealth.ca/covid-19
- Surveillance:
 - Island Health: islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/covid-19/outbreaks-and-exposures
 - BCCDC: bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data
- BC's Restart: gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restart



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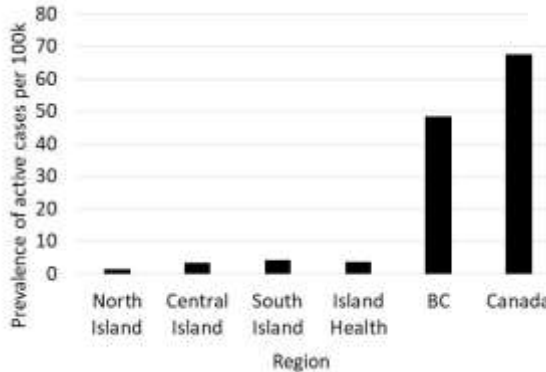
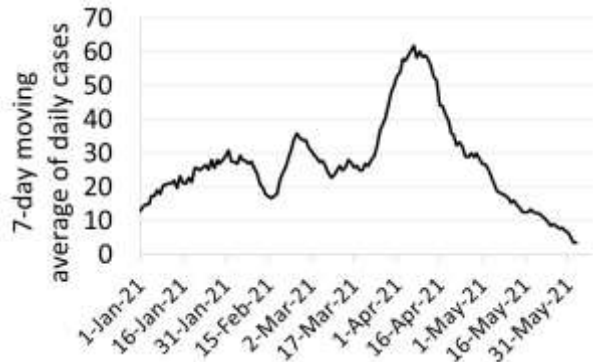
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Situational assessment:

- COVID-19 daily incidence in Island Health decreased sharply in May. Current 7-day moving average of daily cases is 4, the lowest so far in 2021.



- The prevalence of active cases in Island Health, adjusted by population size, is 93% lower than BC and 95% lower than Canada. LHA & CHSA level data can be accessed at bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data.

- 7-day lab testing percent positivity is 0.5% - the lowest so far in 2021. Almost all calling into the Call Centre are tested the day of or day after. For clients requiring COVID-19 testing but are unable to attend a testing site in-person, mobile testing may be available. Either direct clients to make this request when booking a test, or call 1-844-901-8442 on their behalf and request mobile testing.

- Currently 1 active COVID-19 case is hospitalized (3.3% of active cases).
- COVID-19 cases continue to be contacted well within 24h of notification of a positive test result, and contacts are typically traced and managed within 24 hours as well. Cases and contacts receive virtual follow-up until they have successfully completed required periods of self-isolation or quarantine. Please note: this monitoring is predominantly for public health reasons (to ensure isolation and determine if contacts have developed symptoms), and does not replace clinical care. For select COVID-19 cases requiring a higher level of monitoring in the community, Intensive Home Monitoring is available upon referral: intranet.viha.ca/departments/hcc/hcc_index/Pages/ihm.aspx
- The majority of cases in Island Health continue to have an identified source of infection, with most linked to a known case or cluster.
- Currently, there are no active outbreaks in facilities. The most recent outbreak in long-term care or assisted living was declared over May 5, and the most recent hospital outbreak was declared over April 28.