

ISLAND HEALTH MEDICAL STAFF BULLETIN

December 15, 2021

Yesterday, Island Health recorded our highest total active caseload (717) since the start of the pandemic. At more than 9%, our test positivity rate is the highest in the province. Daily cases in Island Health have increased by 29% in the past week – and by 252% in South Island.

COVID 19 Cases:

	Today's New Cases	New Cases since December 8 (last bulletin)	Active Cases	Currently hospitalized (ICU)	Cumulative Cases	Total Deaths
BC	584	3,010	3,458	193(77)	224,245	2,393
Island Health	109	764	856	39(14)	14,068	134

** Data from BCCDC public dashboard**

PHO/MHO News Release, BC COVID-19 Dashboard, BCCDC COVID-19 Canadian and Global Epidemiology

Island Health dashboard for new cases:

- Dec 15: 27 North Island Cases, 26 Central Island Cases, 48 South Island
- Dec 14: 24 North Island Cases, 25 Central Island Cases, 42 South Island
- Dec 11-13: 102 North Island Cases, 86 Central Island Cases, 162 South Island
- Dec 10: 30 North Island Cases, 24 Central Island Cases, 39 South Island
- Dec 9: 38 North Island Cases, 36 Central Island Cases, 48 South Island

COVID-19 Updates:

- Update to COVID-19 cases association with University of Victoria
Lab sequencing has confirmed that at least four of the cases associated with this cluster are the Omicron variant of concern.
- Provincial Health Officer COVID-19 modeling Update: December 14, 2021
Dr. Bonnie Henry shared new modeling that shows potential scenarios for the spread of the Omicron variant. Additional information includes the most recent Geographic distribution of COVID-19 case rates by local health area of residence, Geographic distribution of COVID-19 vaccinations and more.

COVID-19 Outbreaks:

- No new outbreaks

COVID-19 Vaccine Information:

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
1,515,986	90.4%	84.5%	14.2%

- Boosters for medical staff

Members of the medical staff should have been contacted regarding the 3rd dose. If you have not been contacted please ensure you have self identified as a health-care worker with ImmunizeBC www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca system, and then self-identify as a health-care worker using this link [www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca/s/d3-target-self-identification] and access code: **Y6383E!** (note: include the exclamation point).

- [Expression of Interest for Delivering COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

Are you a midwife, nurse practitioner or physician who is interested in joining Island Health's COVID-19 immunization team? Please express your interest by completing the [survey](#).

- **Pediatric Clinics**

COVID-19 pediatric clinics are up and running in the Island Health region. Parents can register their children for vaccination using the website www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca, which will also prompt an opportunity to book an appointment.

- [Update to Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 2: Immunization, Part 4 – Biological Products](#)

Booster dose eligibility has been updated to include individuals 65-69 years of age, all staff working in long term care, assisted living facilities and acute care hospitals, and other clinically extremely vulnerable clients.

- [B.C. marks one year of COVID-19 vaccines](#)

On Dec. 14, 2020, the first doses of COVID-19 vaccines arrived in Vancouver. The next day, long-term care aide Nisha Yunus became the first person in B.C. to get vaccinated. More than 4.2 million British Columbians have joined her in getting at least their first dose.

- [COVID-19 mRNA Vaccines | HealthLink BC](#)

New webpage dedicated to the mRNA Vaccines.

Topics touched on include What are COVID-19 mRNA vaccines? Who should get the vaccines? What are the benefits of the vaccines?

- [COVID-19 Viral Vector Vaccines | HealthLink BC](#)

New webpage dedicated to the mRNA Vaccines. Topics touched on include What are COVID-19 viral vector vaccines? How are the vaccines given? What are the possible reactions after the vaccines?



COVID-19 Reports:

- [BCCDC COVID-19 LTC, AL & Independent Living Report](#)
- [Situation Report | Dec 15](#)
- [Situation Report | Dec 9](#)
- [Geographic distribution of COVID-19 by local health area of case residence](#)

B.C. COVID-19 pandemic updates:

- [B.C. COVID-19 pandemic update | Dec 15](#)
- [B.C. COVID-19 pandemic update | Dec 14](#)

Spotlight:

- [Happy Retirement to Dr. Jonathan Down, Developmental Pediatrician](#)

Dr. Jonathan Down is retiring after serving as Developmental Pediatrician providing services to children across the Island since February of 2002.

- [Spotlight on Seniors - New Resources for Compassion and Compassionate Communication](#)

The COVID-19 Pandemic has highlighted the need for focused attention on how our health system cares for seniors. At Island Health, the Seniors Health team has created a suite of resources to help care providers meet the needs of this unique and growing patient population. For the next few months, we'll be highlighting a new resource every week.

- [Seeking Physician Members of the Medical Staff for a Working Group](#)

This working group of physicians, Island Health, and Doctors of BC is being formed to focus on issues surrounding Respectful Workplace policies and procedures.



- [Improved mental health support for maternity patients](#)
Improving access to mental health supports in the limited time period before and after delivery is the inspiration behind a Shared Care perinatal mental health project - a physician-led collaboration that aims to help an estimated 1000-plus people living in Southern Vancouver Island.
- [Clinical Governance Improvement Initiative \(CGII\): Help identify priorities for improvement through a new survey](#)
Krista Allan (VP of Knowledge and Professional Practice & Chief Nurse Executive) and Dr. Ben Williams (VP of Medicine and Quality & Chief Medical Executive) shared a new engagement survey and the selected External Partner for the CGII Project Team.
- [The Province is allowing the order limiting non-essential fuel use to expire](#)
. This temporary measure limited non-essential vehicles to 30 litres of fuel (gas and diesel) per trip to the gas station and had been in place starting Nov. 19, 2021 and expired at the end of the day on Dec. 14, 2021.

IHealth:

- [IHealth News for Medical Staff Issue No. 6](#)
This issue of the IHealth Medical Staff Newsletter focuses on a survey to provide feedback on IHealth RJH and VGH Post-Activation, Where is IHealth next?, Tip of the Day and more.
- [IHealth Post-Implementation Survey Response Time extended to December 15, 2021](#)
It has come to our attention that the post-implementation survey link that was published in the Friday memo was not active. It has now been reactivated and will remain open until Wednesday December 15 at noon.
- [Medical Health Officers' Newsletter 339 | December 13](#)
COVID-19 Status Update including Omicron Variant update.

Newsletters:

- [Primary Care Update](#)

Island Health End of Day & CEO Messages:

- [Pandemic Planning COVID-19 Update | Dec 14](#)
- [Pandemic Planning COVID-19 Update | Dec 10](#)

Upcoming Events & education opportunities:

- [Explore@Four@Noon | Thursday Dec 16, 12:00-13:00](#)

All upcoming events found on the [Calendar of Events page](#).

If you wish to add a Calendar Event to your personal Outlook Calendar, click this button at the top of the calendar pop-up



The next email bulletin will occur **December 22nd** unless additional updates are necessary.

The [medical staff website](#) is updated Monday through Friday (excluding holidays).

If you have any questions, please email MedStaffCommunications@viha.ca

Health, Wellness & Urgent Support Services available for medical staff





island health