



- [Staff and Medical Staff Booster Dose Clinics](#)

Island Health is increasing access to COVID-19 booster dose for staff and medical staff with site-based clinics over the next few weeks. This week – clinic locations are confirmed for VGH, RJH, NRGH, CDH, and CRGH, with other clinic locations being finalized. Community Primary Care physicians may also attend and self-identify as community physicians (Island Health ID not required).

- Treating COVID-19 patients with Sotrovimab

- [Clinical Practice Guide for the Use of Sotrovimab in Patients with COVID-19](#)
- Sotrovimab is a monoclonal antibody that neutralizes the spike protein of the SARS-COV-2 virus, preventing entry into human cells and replication. Sotrovimab is active against variants of concern including Omicron.
- [Island Health establishes three outpatient clinics to treat vulnerable COVID-19 patients using Sotrovimab](#)

Sotrovimab will be administered intravenously at three outpatient clinics located at the Royal Jubilee, Nanaimo Regional and Campbell River Hospitals.

- **[Working with Mild Illness & On-site Rapid Testing](#)**

The speed of transmission of the Omicron variant is taking a toll on staffing resources in health-care. As such, Dr. Bonnie Henry has stated her support of temporary measures to allow health-care staff and medical staff to continue working with mild illness **if** they test negative for COVID-19 **and** feel well enough to do so. To support this temporary change in process, Island Health is rolling-out Rapid Antigen Point of Care Tests (RAPOCT) at all acute care sites this week, for **all** staff and medical staff with mild illness (sniffles/slight runny nose, congestion, scratchy throat or headache) - who are actively working on-site, or are scheduled to work the same day. In the days ahead, we will be implementing RAPOCT procedures in LTC, Tertiary Mental Health, health units and health authority owned/operated primary care facilities.

Anyone who does not feel well enough to work should stay home and arrange a PCR test through the priority health-care worker call line: **1-833-737-9377 – 8am – 4pm, daily**. As well, symptomatic medical staff who are not scheduled to work imminently, or who are working virtually, should book a PCR test.

PLEASE NOTE: Site and departmental leaders will be sharing site-specific process details for RAPOCT with staff and medical staff once in place at your site. Questions about the process can be directed through your leader.

BCCDC COVID-19 Case Reports

COVID 19 Cases:

	Today's New Cases	New Cases since January 5 (last bulletin)	Active Cases	Currently hospitalized (ICU)	Cumulative Cases	Total Deaths
BC	2,239	15,572	36,394	469(97)	286,080	2,449
Island Health	465	3,168	4,259	65(11)	23,039	147

** Data from BCCDC public dashboard**

PHO/MHO News Release

BCCDC COVID-19 Canadian and Global Epidemiology

BC COVID-19 Dashboard: [Click here](#) for a daily update on COVID-19 numbers for British Columbia, Vancouver Island and other health regions. *Updates made after 4pm daily.

COVID-19 Updates:

- [Updated BCCDC guidance for COVID-19 testing for public](#)
In an effort to preserve testing capacity, BCCDC has updated guidance to prioritize testing for those at risk of more severe disease, and those who live or work in high-risk settings such as healthcare workers.
 - [Updated Mask Policy](#)
Island Health has updated its workplace masking policy for medical staff, staff, contractors, patients and visitors. Medical-grade masks are now required for all visitors to LTC and ALCs.
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COVID-19 Outbreaks:

- [Island Health declares new COVID-19 outbreaks at long-term care homes; VGH outbreak declared over](#)
- [Island Health declares COVID-19 outbreak at Victoria long-term care home, updates existing outbreaks](#)

COVID-19 Vaccine Information:

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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
1,670,117	91.2%	85.2%	31.2%

- [Update to Communicable Disease Control Manual, Chapter 1: Communicable Disease Control: COVID-19 Interim Guidelines and Chapter 2: Immunization, Part 4 – Biological Products](#)

Updates include the length of self-isolation for cases and close contacts, the definition of fully vaccinated, the incubation period for Omicron, the time frame for

self-monitoring for close contacts and the list of high priority settings for contact tracing, timing of a booster dose for individuals who received a single dose Janssen vaccine for their primary series.

COVID-19 Reports:

- [BCCDC COVID-19 LTC, AL& Independent Living Report](#)
 - [Situation Report | Jan 6](#)
 - [Geographic distribution of COVID-19 by local health area of case residence | Jan 6](#)
 - [B.C. COVID-19 pandemic update | Jan 12](#)
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Island Health End of Day & CEO Messages:

- [Pandemic Planning COVID-19 Update | January 11](#)

- [Pandemic Planning COVID-19 Update | January 7](#)

Spotlight:

- [Ministers', PHO statement on support for health-care workers, COVID-19 testing](#)
"B.C.'s health-care workers are doing an exceptional job under the most challenging of circumstances. They deserve the support of all of us, particularly now as we work together to manage this next phase of the pandemic". - Dr. Bonnie Henry.
- [Finding inspiration during a pandemic](#)
A number of inspirational quotes have mysteriously appeared on the temporary, white plastic wall that divides the ICU construction from the rest of the hospital at NRGH.
- [Protect ourselves and our communities – get a flu shot](#)
As 2022 unfolds, we want to take this opportunity to encourage Island Health staff and medical staff to get their influenza shot if they have not yet done so.
- [Clinical Governance Improvement Initiative: Engagement Survey Reminder](#)
Island Health is seeking your perspectives through an engagement survey designed to uncover what is working in clinical governance and what is in need of improvement. Please complete [the survey](#) before January 28th.



- [Caring Spirit Awards | December](#)
Congratulations to the following physicians Drs. Simon Robinson, Chris Franco, Elizabeth Swiggum, Alison Ross, Jill Kelly, Brian McArdle, Lynne Fedoruk, Michael Perchinsky, Ian Fleetwood, Edward Moss, Jacqueline Pierce, John Cooper and Kirstin Morch who are honoured with Caring Spirit Awards in December, 2021! A grateful donor has recognized you with a [Caring Spirit Award](#) and a donation in your honour toward priority medical equipment.
 - [Priorities for Improving Health in BC | Dr. Ray Markham](#)
In recent years, BC has faced emerging challenges for health, such as the spread of COVID-19 and a toxic illicit drug supply, while continuing to manage ongoing, systemic pressures, such as an aging demographic and timely access to care. In this context, UBC Health (in the Office of the Vice-President, Health at UBC) seeks your perspective on priorities for improving health and wellness in BC.
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Newsletters:

- [Island Health magazine Winter issue now available](#)
This issue includes a tribute to retiring Dr. Richard Stanwick.
 - [Primary Care Update: January 12](#)
The latest updates on the COVID-19 Omicron variant, Outpatient Covid Therapeutics Clinics at Island Health, and the roll out of Sotrovimab.
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Upcoming Events:

- [Cognitive Health Initiative Lunch and Learn January 19th](#)
The Neil and Susan Manning Cognitive Health Initiative (CHI) invites you to join the next, fully accredited, Lunch and Learn Series on Wednesday January 19th from 12-1pm.
 - [Indications, clinical impact, and complications of critical care trans esophageal echocardiography | Thursday Jan 13, 08:00-09:00](#)
 - [Infection Rounds | Wednesday Jan 19, 12:00-13:00](#)
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If you wish to add a Calendar Event to your personal Outlook Calendar, click this button at the top of the calendar pop-up



All upcoming events found on the calendar of events page

[Calendar of Events page](#)

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The next email bulletin will occur **January 19th** 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**



Thank you for reading the Medical Staff Bulletin.