



- [Testing Guidance Updates from BCCDC](#)

The [BCCDC has updated guidance](#) on testing for COVID. Testing is only recommended for people with symptoms who:

- are at highest risk of experiencing severe illness and **may benefit from treatment**, or
- live or work in high-risk settings such as healthcare workers, first responders, congregate settings where there are people at higher risk of severe outcomes, and communities with limited access to testing or care.

The [Thrive app/self-assessment tool](#) has been updated to reflect the new testing recommendations.

- Island Health Medical Director, Infection Prevention and Control (Dr. Pam Kibsey) recommends that COVID testing for inpatients should only be used when it will change the management of their care. We know that the controls we have in place work to reduce transmission: all health care workers and most patients are fully vaccinated, PPE is used, and between-patient transmission is not

common. The updated inpatient testing recommendations will be a change in thinking for medical staff but it is a necessary step towards endemic management of COVID-19 and where we put our testing resources.

- [Treating COVID-19 patients with Sotrovimab](#)

Monoclonal antibody infusion clinics are open at CRH, NRGH, and RJH. Work is underway to evaluate other sites (i.e. CDH, WCGH and possibly TGH.) Referral and Eligibility criteria are available via the following link. Further information will be forwarded as it becomes available.

- [Health Canada Approves oral antiviral for treatment of COVID-19](#)

Health Canada has approved the first oral COVID-19 medication for prevention of severe illness or death in some high-risk individuals. Paxlovid is an oral antiviral pill manufactured by Pfizer, which combines two medications, nirmatrelvir and ritonavir, and works by interrupting viral replication. Given global supply constraints, Canada's Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Theresa Tam says the drug "won't be a key contributor" in efforts to counter the Omicron wave.

- [Island Health adjusting services to strengthen patient safety](#)

Island Health has implemented several temporary service adjustments to strengthen patient care during Omicron-related COVID-19 staffing challenges.

COVID 19 Cases:

	Today's New Cases	New Cases since January 12 (last bulletin)	Active Cases	Currently hospitalized (ICU)	Cumulative Cases	Total Deaths
BC	2,387	17,485	35,770	895(115)	303,565	2,505
Island Health	275	1,902	2,095	60(7)	24,941	157

** 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:

- [Updates to PPE Guidelines: Eye Protection & N95s](#)
Island Health PPE guidelines have been updated to reflect the return to eye protection requirements when within two metres of a patient, resident or client. N95 masking for health-care providers is determined by a Point of Care Risk Assessment. Health-care workers who are required to wear an N95 as part of their duties should be fit tested on an annual basis.
- [Provincial Health Officer provides new COVID-19 modeling](#)
New provincial modeling for COVID-19 can be found through this [link](#). The BCCDC slide presentation includes case counts and hospitalizations by health authority. It also provides definitions of case counts that now include incidental hospitalizations (i.e., patient tests positive for COVID19 but was admitted to hospital for other reasons), and hospital-associated COVID19.
- [Order of the Provincial Health Officer: Some Restrictions Lifted, Others Extended](#)
At Tuesday's provincial briefing, Dr. Bonnie Henry announced that gyms and adult fitness clubs may re-open on January 20 with some new guidance to ensure public safety. Other Public Health Orders have been extended to February 16. This includes capacity limits at restaurants and sporting events, closure of bars and nightclubs, and mandatory COVID safety plans for all businesses.
- BCCDC updates its Immunization Manual for pregnancy and booster dose eligibility at 8 weeks
Updates were made to Chapter 2 in the [Immunization Manual](#) to indicate pregnant women may receive a booster at least 8 weeks after their primary vaccination series.

- [Boosters available for pregnant women](#)

Effective January 13, women who are pregnant can book a COVID-19 booster vaccine if it has been at least eight weeks since they received their second vaccine dose.

COVID-19 Outbreaks:

- [Island Health COVID-19 outbreak updates](#)

There are active outbreaks at eight long-term care facilities and one acute site, almost all in the South Island. Details can be found in [this updated list](#) of active 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
1,737,607	91.6%	85.5%	39.7%

- [Updated: COVID-19 Vaccination Clinical Guidance](#)
Island Health has updated Section 3.2 to indicate that vaccination site capacities now permit a return to post-vaccination routine standard supervision for 15 minute and 30 minutes, as appropriate.
- [Updated Dates: Drop-In Booster Clinics for Medical Staff & Staff](#)
Island Health is increasing access to COVID-19 booster vaccines for staff and medical staff with site-based clinics and has updated the current list of sites.

COVID-19 Reports:

- [BCCDC COVID-19 LTC, AL& Independent Living Report](#)
- [Situation Report | Jan 12](#)

- [Situation Report | Jan 19](#)
- [Geographic distribution of COVID-19 by local health area of case residence | Jan 12](#)
- [Geographic distribution of COVID-19 by local health area of case residence | Jan 19](#)
- [B.C. COVID-19 pandemic update | Jan 19](#)

Spotlight:



- [Dr. William Cunningham Awarded David Haughton Leadership Award](#)
Dr. William Cunningham was awarded the 2021 David Haughton Leadership Award. The David Haughton Leadership Award is awarded every few years by

the Section of Emergency Medicine of the Doctors of BC for exemplary achievements as a physician, leader, and teacher.

- [New Learning Resource Available: Introduction to Advance Care Planning](#)
New Learning Hub module – Introduction to Advance Care Planning is now available.
- [Live CHEK TV Broadcast from Archie Browning Immunization Clinic](#)
CHEK TV broadcast the Upside from Island Health's immunization clinic at Archie Browning on January 17th, with a story including MHO Dr. Mike Benusic and retired podiatrist Dr Frank Lobianco. Dr. Jennifer Lush provided safety information about pediatric vaccines. You can watch Dr. Lush in [this interview](#) during the 5 o'clock show (scroll to 48:37).

Newsletters:

- [Long-Term Care Newsletter - January 2022](#)
In this year's first edition, the focus is on: Communication skills brush up, Cytotoxic Precautions Alert, Using silver nitrate in LTC, and Introductions for our new CNE's!
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Island Health End of Day & CEO Messages:

- [Pandemic Planning COVID-19 Update | January 18](#)
 - [Pandemic Planning COVID-19 Update | January 14](#)
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Upcoming Events:

- [A New Day: Emerging priorities in specialty care | Friday January 21, 08:00-12:00](#)
 - [Infection Rounds | Wednesday January 26, 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 26th** 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.
