

British Columbia (BC) COVID-19 Situation Report

Week 48: November 22 – November 28, 2020

Table of Contents		COVID-19 incidence still elevated in BC: potential plateau in percent positivity and weekly hospitalizations, but ongoing increase in deaths
Pandemic phase definitions	2	There were 5,796 new COVID-19 reports in week 48, nearly 30% higher than the week 47 tally of 4,501 reports. Weekly tallies by report date, however, include cases with illness onset date in preceding weeks. Based upon episode date, incidences in weeks 47 and 48 were both elevated at 96 and 83 per 100K – each more than five times higher than week 38 (mid-September), the start of Phase 3b. Furthermore, episode-based incidences will increase as data (notably onset dates) become more complete and given prior trends, we may expect the week 48 rate based on episode date to at least match that based on report date (113 per 100K).
Epidemic curve	2	
Weekly incidence by health authority and health service delivery area	2	Week 48 incidence remained elevated in all health authorities (HA), highest in Fraser (FHA) and Vancouver Coastal (VCHA). Both Northern (NHA) and Interior (IHA), however, continued to show steep incline over recent successive weeks. In Vancouver Island (VIHA), incidence remained elevated but still the lowest by HA.
Test rates and % positive	4	
Age profile, testing and cases	5	Incidence in week 48 was at least four times that of week 38 for all age groups. Of concern, adults 80+ again had amongst the highest incidence, exceeding 100 per 100K, still about 15 times higher than in week 38.
Severe outcome counts	8	Whereas percent positivity increased steadily from weeks 41-46 (1.8% to 8.7%), it plateaued or slightly decreased in weeks 47 and 48 (8.5% and 7.9%). Positivity in week 48 was 10.4% in FHA, 7.4% in NHA, 6.9% in VCHA, 5.8% in IHA, and 1.8% in VIHA. Positivity exceeded 7.5% in all age groups except children 0-9 years (5.4%).
Age profile, severe outcomes	9	
Likely sources of infection	10	There were 217 hospitalizations in week 48, comparable to week 47 (219) but double the first wave peak in week 13 (107). Given the expected lag from case onset to potential development of severe outcomes, the ultimate tally and timing of the second wave peak in severe outcomes has yet to be determined.
Care facility outbreaks	11	
Clinical indicators	12	In week 48, there were 82 deaths, about 60% higher than week 47 (51) and triple the first wave peak in week 15 (26). In week 48, 57 (70%) deaths were associated with a care facility outbreak and 77 (94%) were 70+ years. Of 435 deaths in BC to date, 298 (69%) were facility outbreak-associated and 378 (87%) were 70+ years.
		There were 16 care facility outbreaks reported in week 48 (8 in FHA, 7 in VCHA, 1 in NHA), 11 with earliest onset date in prior weeks. Facility outbreak tallies by earliest onset date are highest so far in week 46 (24).

BELOW ARE IMPORTANT NOTES relevant to the interpretation of data displayed in this bulletin:

- Unlike other summaries based on report date, this bulletin mainly adopts episode date defined by dates of illness onset, hospital admission, or death. Only when those dates are unknown, is report date used.
- Data are provided by epidemiological week. Episode-based tallies for recent weeks are expected to increase as case data, in particular onset dates, become more complete.
- Per capita rates/incidences are based on PEOPLE2020 population estimates (n=5,139,568 for BC overall).
- Laboratory data include Medical Service Plan (MSP) (e.g. clinical diagnostic) as well as non-MSP (e.g. screening) specimens. The percent of specimens testing positive is presented here for all specimens tested as well as separately for MSP-funded specimens only. Given the systematically lower likelihood of test positivity among screening vs diagnostic specimens, summary analyses are foremost based on MSP-funded diagnostic specimens unless otherwise specified.

***Table of [pandemic phases](#) defined by implementation or relaxation of population-level mitigation measures in BC:**

PRE-PHASE 1 Before implementation January 15 (wk 3) to March 13 (wk 11), 2020	PHASE 1 Implementation March 14 (wk 11) to May 18 (wk 21), 2020	PHASE 2 Initial relaxation May 19 (wk 21) to June 23 (wk 26), 2020	PHASE 3a Further relaxation June 24 (wk 26) to Sept 12 (wk 37), 2020	PHASE 3b Start of school year Sept 13 (wk 38) to Current (wk 48), 2020
From earliest onset date	From start of March break Additionally: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mass gatherings >50 banned (Mar 16) ○ Traveller self-isolation required (Mar 17) ○ Service restrictions (Mar 18) ○ US/Canada border closure (Mar 20) 	Re-opening of services Additionally: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gradual/part-time return to school of K-12 students for 2019-20 school year (Jun 1) 	Broader re-opening Additionally: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Re-opening non-essential travel in BC, hotels, TV/film ○ Return to in-class learning for 2020-21 school year, partial week (Thurs, Sept 10) 	From first complete epidemiological week of 2020-21 school year

A. COVID-19 case counts and epidemic curveReport tallies by week

As shown by the gray line in [Figure 1](#), there were 5,796 new COVID-19 cases reported in week 48 which is nearly 30% higher than the 4,501 reports in prior week 47 and 13 times higher than the wave one peak of 442 reports in week 13. The weekly tally by report date, however, includes cases with illness onset date in preceding weeks. Analyses instead based on episode date (i.e. illness onset date and, only if that is unavailable, then case report date) may better represent the evolution of the epidemic. The bars in [Figure 1](#) display the epidemic curve based on episode date, coloured by health authority. Note that episode-based tallies for recent weeks are expected to increase as case data, in particular onset dates, become more complete.

Episode-based cumulative incidence: provincially and by health authority (HA) (not shown)

Provincially, between week 3 (mid-January) and week 48 (fourth week of November), there have been 34,180 cases in total in BC, corresponding to a cumulative incidence of 663 per 100K. By HA, this cumulative tally (and incidence) includes: 21,762 cases in Fraser Health Authority (FHA: 1,122 per 100K); 9,042 cases in Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (VCHA: 747 per 100K); 1,784 cases in Interior Health Authority (IHA: 214 per 100K); 869 cases in Northern Health Authority (NHA: 303 per 100K); and 630 cases in Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA: 73 per 100K).

Episode-based weekly incidence: provincially and by HA and health service district area (HSDA)

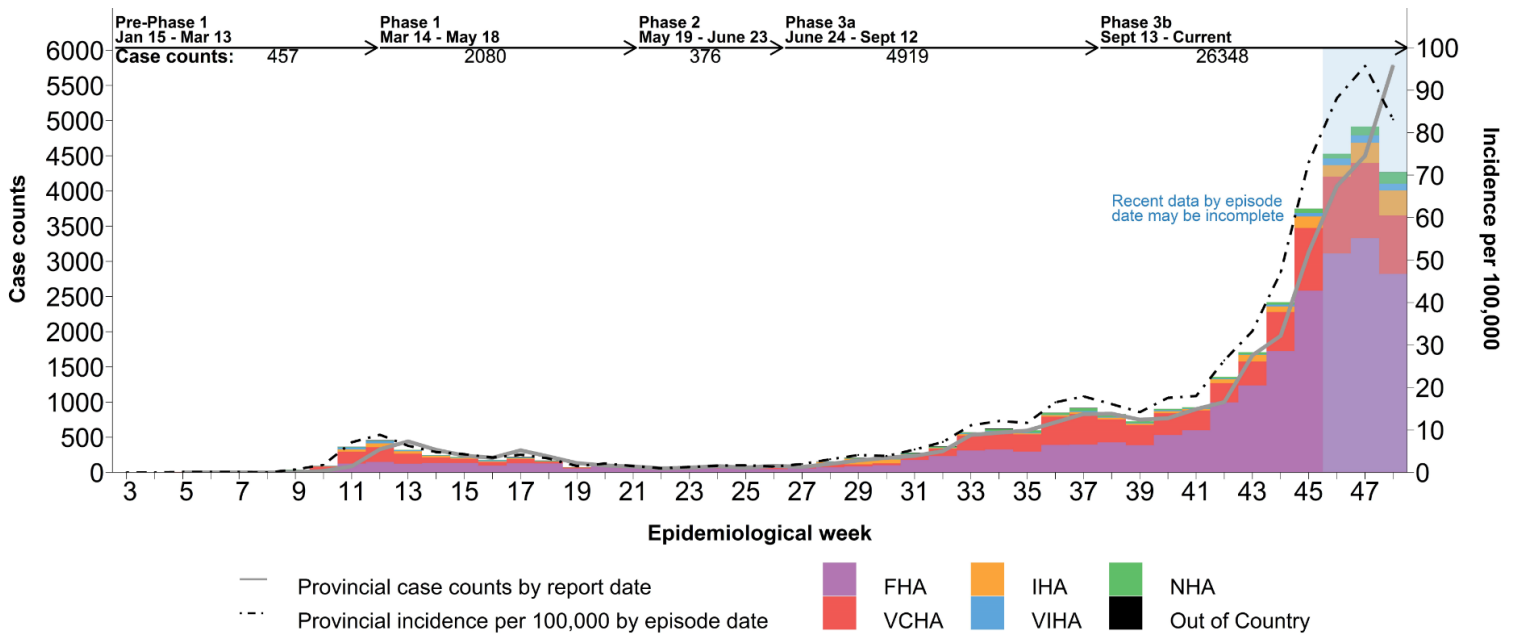
As shown in [Figure 1](#), at the week 38 (mid-September) start of Phase 3b and in week 41, COVID-19 incidence was <20 per 100K (16 and 18 per 100K, respectively) but has shown steady increase since week 41.

As of data extraction for the current bulletin, there were 4,918 and 4,271 cases with episode date in weeks 47 and 48, respectively, corresponding to incidences of 96 and 83 per 100K – more than five times higher than the start of Phase 3b. Recognizing that episode-based data for week 48 are still incomplete, and if previous trends continue, we may expect the episode-based rate in week 48 to match or exceed the rate based on report date, which is 113 per 100K.

As shown in [Figure 2](#), incidence in week 48 remained elevated in all health authorities relative to the week 38 start of Phase 3b, highest in FHA (146 per 100K) and VCHA (69 per 100K). Both NHA and IHA, however, continued to show steep incline over recent successive weeks with incidences that were more than double week 46 (i.e. 57 vs. 23 and 43 vs. 19 per 100K, respectively), the latter foremost observed in Okanagan HSDA. In VIHA, week 48 incidence also remained elevated (11 per 100K), notably in Central Vancouver Island, comparable to week 46 (11 per 100K) but still lowest overall by HA.

It warrants repeating that episode-based tallies for recent weeks will further increase as data become more complete, as emphasized by the pale blue shading in [Figure 1](#).

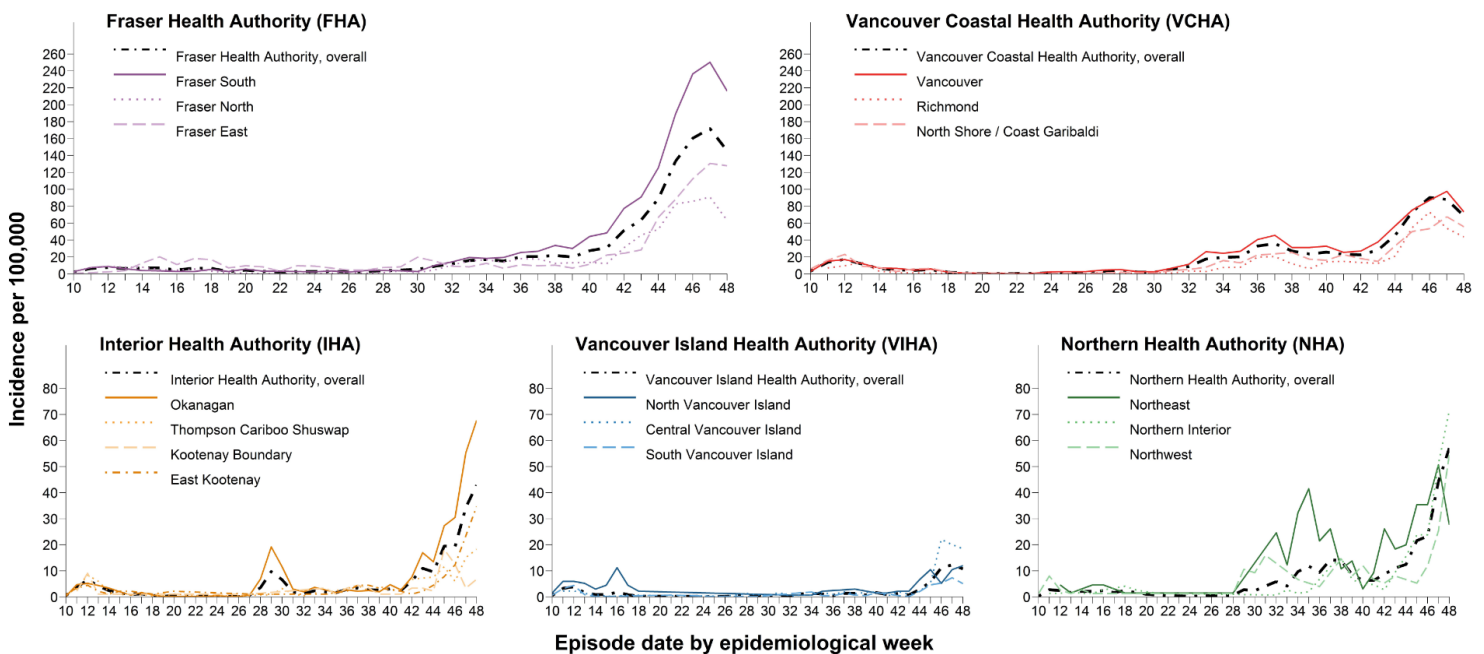
Figure 1. Episode-based epidemic curve (bars)^a, report date (line) and health authority (HA), BC January 15, 2020 (week 3) – November 28, 2020 (week 48) (N= 34,180)



The average weekly rate by phase in Figure 1 is derived as the incidence divided by the number of weeks for Pre-Phase 1 (8 weeks), Phase 1 (9 weeks), Phase 2 (5 weeks), Phase 3a (11.5 weeks), and Phase 3b (11 weeks).

a. First onset date of a case in BC was January 15, 2020. Displayed data extracted after noon on Friday, December 4, 2020.

Figure 2. Weekly episode-based incidence rates by HA and health service delivery area (HSDA), BC March 1, 2020 (week 10) – November 28, 2020 (week 48)



B. Test rates and percent positive

In BC, laboratory-based surveillance captures the mostly symptom-based diagnostic testing conducted under the Medical Service Plan (MSP) funding scheme, as well as any non-MSP funded screening tests. As shown by the bars in [Figure 3](#), the total weekly number of respiratory specimens, both MSP and non-MSP funded, exceeded 80,000 in weeks 47 and 48.

Screening tests have a lower likelihood of testing SARS-CoV-2 positive (i.e. percent positivity) than symptom-based diagnostic testing; therefore, including more screening specimens will lower the overall percent positivity indicator and the impact of that will be greater when more screening specimens are included. Below we therefore present percent positivity based on all (MSP and non-MSP funded) specimens and separately also for MSP-funded specimens only.

As shown in [Figure 3](#), percent positivity showed steady increase from week 41-46, evident based on all specimens (solid line: 1.4% to 6.5%) and more steeply for MSP-funded specimens only (dotted line: 1.8% to 8.7%). In weeks 47 and 48, percent positivity plateaued or decreased slightly based on all specimens (6.6% and 6.3%, respectively), also more evident based on MSP-funded specimens only (8.5% and 7.9%, respectively). As shown in [Panel A of Figure 4](#), the per capita testing rate in week 48 was highest in FHA and VCHA. As shown in [Panel B](#), percent positivity for MSP-funded specimens was also highest in FHA at 10.4%, next highest in NHA (7.4%) and VCHA (6.9%), followed by IHA (5.8%) and lowest in VIHA (1.8%).

Figure 3. Number of specimens tested and percent SARS-CoV-2 positive, by collection week, BC March 15, 2020 (week 12) – November 28, 2020 (week 48)^a

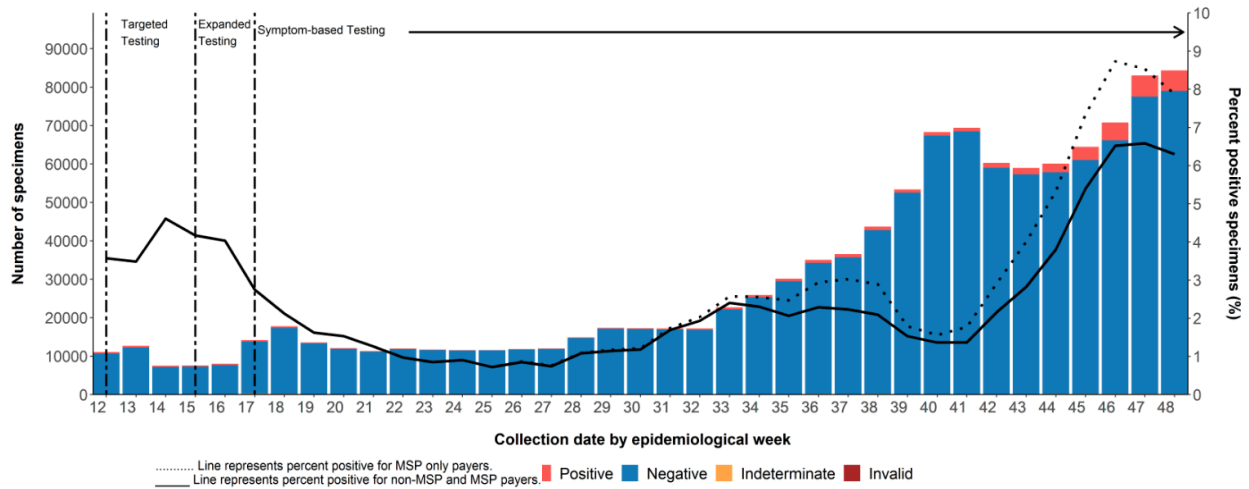
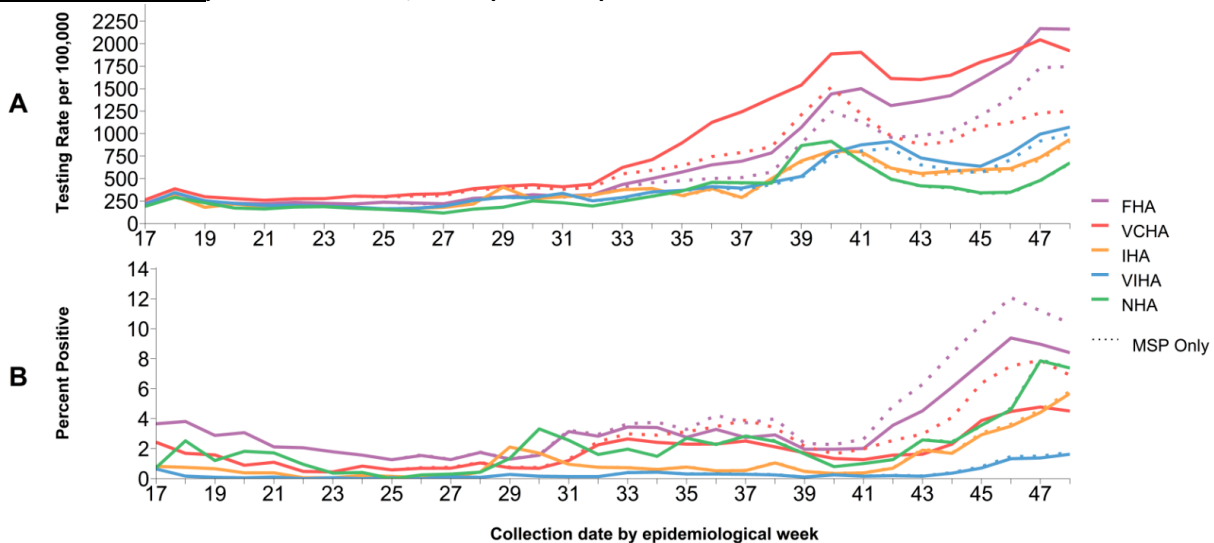


Figure 4. Testing rates and percent SARS-CoV-2 positive by health authority and collection week, BC March 15, 2020 (week 12) – November 28, 2020 (week 48)^a



a. PLOVER extract on Thursday, December 3, 2020.

C. Age profile – Testing and cases

Testing rates by age group

As shown by the coloured bars in [Figure 5](#), testing rates in week 48 compared to prior weeks 38-47 of Phase 3b were lower in children <15 years old, but higher in all other age groups. The highest testing rates in week 48 remain in adults 20-39 years, similar to weeks 38-47 of Phase 3b.

Percent positivity by age group

As shown by the dots in [Figure 5](#), the percent positivity in week 48 was substantially higher than prior weeks 38-47 of Phase 3b whether based on all specimens (black dots) or restricted to MSP specimens only (grey dots). With restriction to MSP specimens only, percent positivity exceeded 7.5% in all age groups except children 0-9 years (5.4%), being highest in 15-19 year olds (9.1%), and next highest in adults 20-39 and 60-79 years (8.0% and 8.1%, respectively).

Case distribution by age group

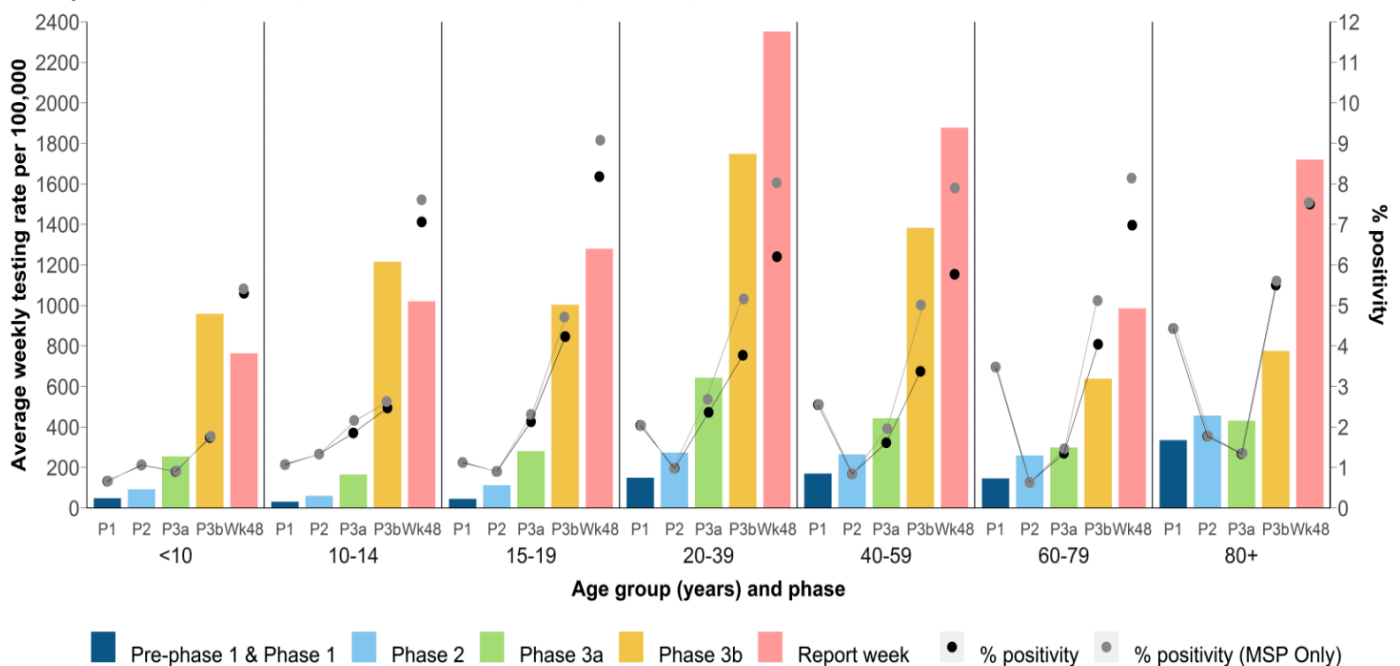
As shown in [Figure 6](#) and [Figure 7](#), relative contribution by age group was stable over the past several weeks. Compared to week 38, however, older adults 80+ years contributed more in week 48 (2% and 6% of all cases, respectively) as did adults 50-59 years (10% and 13%, respectively) whereas the percentage contribution of other age groups to overall cases in week 48 either decreased or remained within 1% (absolute) of their contribution in week 38.

Weekly incidence by age group

As shown in [Figure 8](#) and [Figure 9](#) incidence in all age groups in week 48 was at least four times that of week 38. In week 48, incidence was highest in adults 20-29 years (135 per 100K), 4.5 times higher than in week 38 (30 per 100K). Of concern, week 48 incidence was next highest in elderly adults 80+ years (107 per 100K): 15-fold higher than week 38 (7 per 100K). As shown in [Figure 9](#), incidence among the very old 90+ years is also dramatically elevated in week 48 compared to the average weekly incidence across Phase 3b (almost 4-fold higher from 55 to 213 per 100K). The ongoing elevated incidence among elderly adults remains particularly concerning given their greater risk of severe outcomes ([Section E](#)).

Median age of cases across the pandemic is 37 years: 52 years in Pre-/Phase 1; 40 years in Phase 2; 33 years in Phase 3a; 36 years for prior weeks 38-47 of Phase 3b (excluding week 48) and 37 years in week 48 (not shown).

Figure 5. Average weekly SARS-CoV-2 testing rates and percent positive by known age group and phase^a, BC January 20, 2020 (week 4) – November 28, 2020 (week 48)^b



a. Phase based on specimen collection date, of which January 20 was the earliest. The average weekly rate by phase is derived as the phase-specific per capita test rate divided by the number of weeks for Pre-Phase 1 + Phase 1 (P1: 17 weeks), Phase 2 (P2: 5 weeks), Phase 3a (P3a: 11.5 weeks), and Phase 3b, excluding the current report week (P3b:10 weeks). The current report week, although part of Phase 3b, is excluded from Phase 3b as displayed here to enable comparison.

b. Laboratory extract from PLOVER on December 3, 2020. Testing rates displayed are based on all specimens (MSP and non-MSP).

Figure 6. COVID-19 case distribution by known age group (years) and episode date, BC March 15, 2020 (week 12) – November 28, 2020 (week 48) (N= 33,615)^a

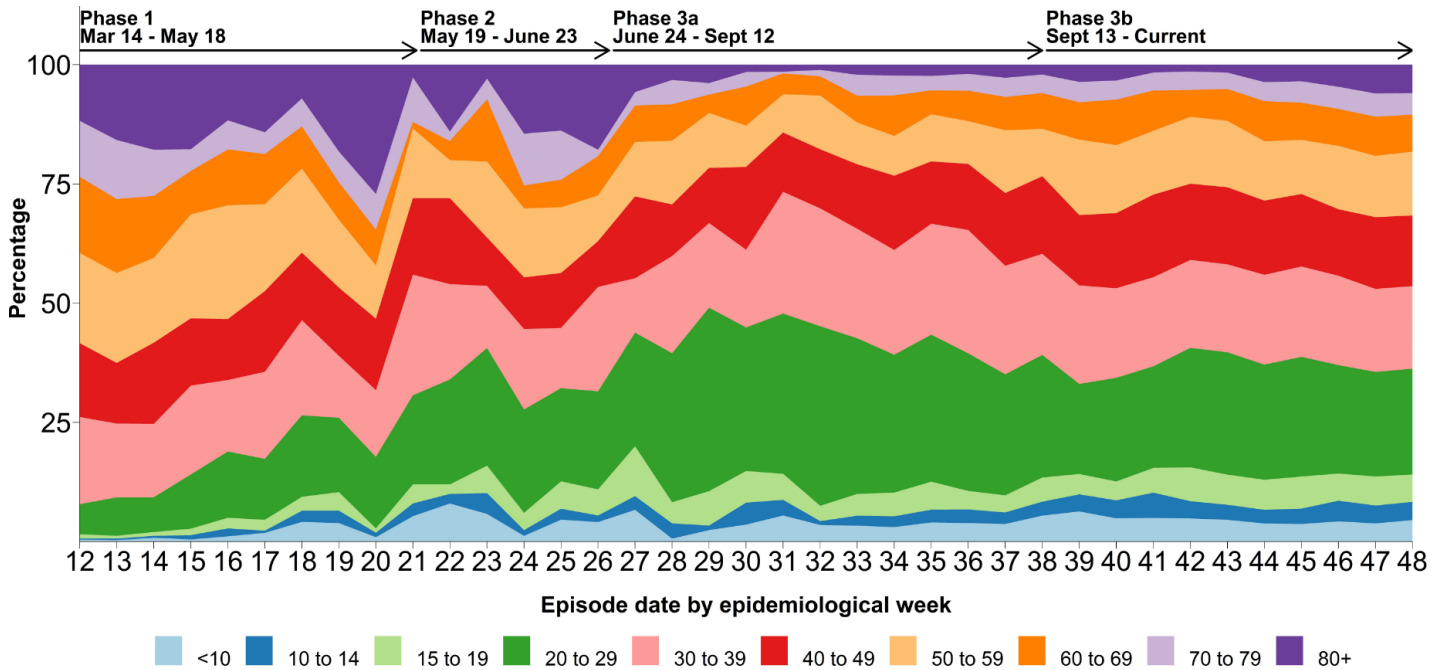
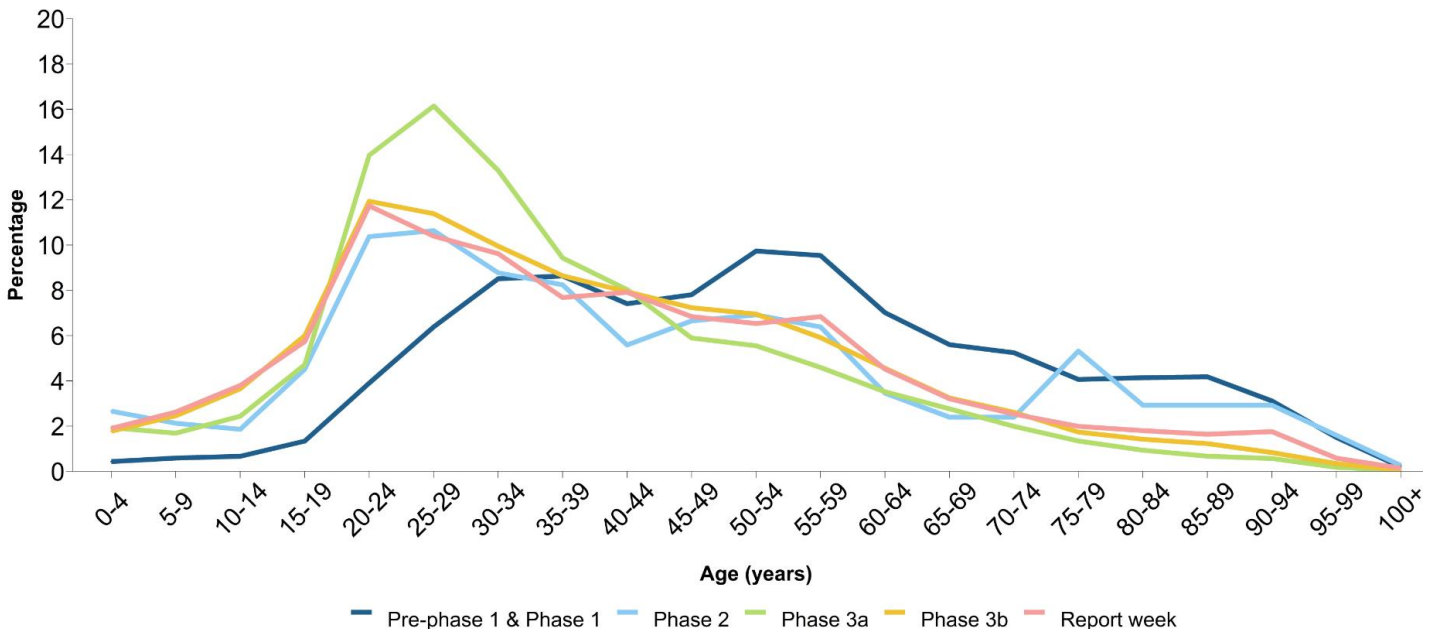


Figure 7. COVID-19 case distribution by known age group (years) for pandemic phases and current report week^b, BC January 15, 2020 (week 3) – November 28, 2020 (week 48) (N= 34,123)^a



a. Among those with available age information only.
 b. The current report week, although part of Phase 3b, is excluded from derivations across prior weeks of Phase 3b to enable comparison, as displayed.

Figure 8. Weekly age-specific incidence per 100K population by epidemiological week, BC January 15, 2020 (week 3) – November 28, 2020 (week 48) (N= 34,123)^a

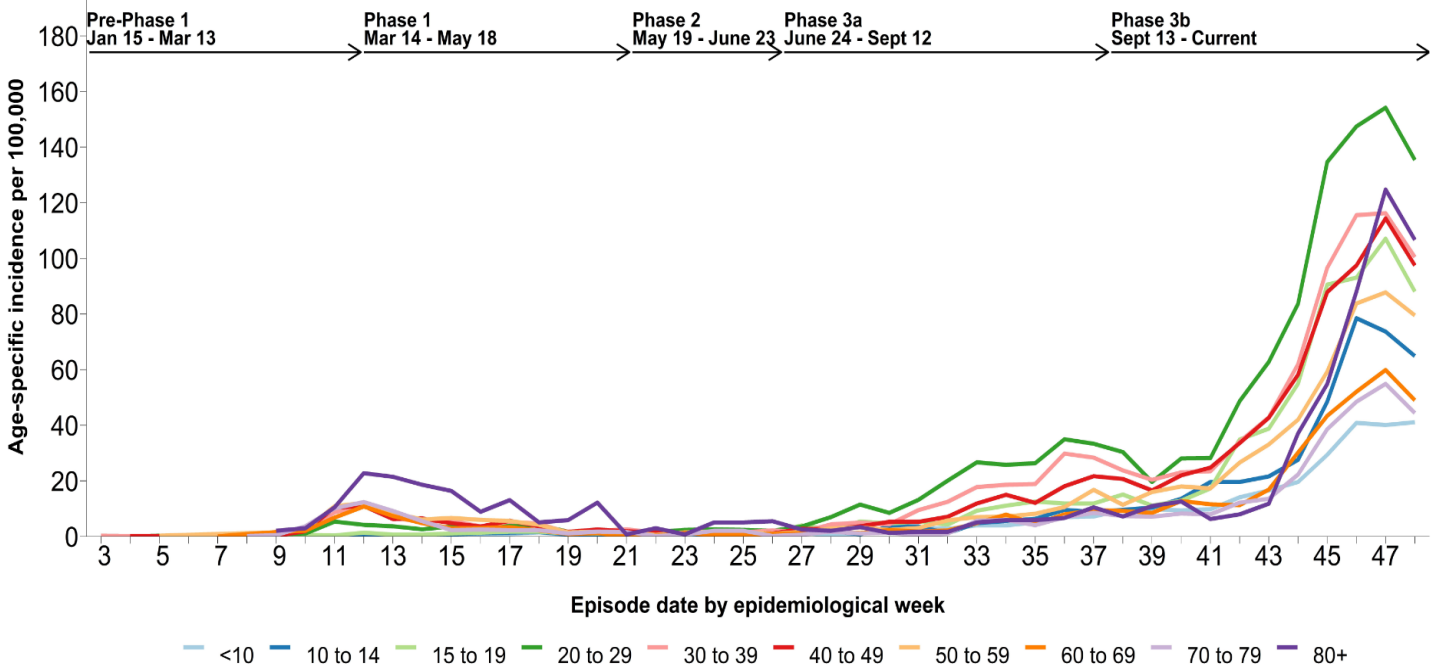
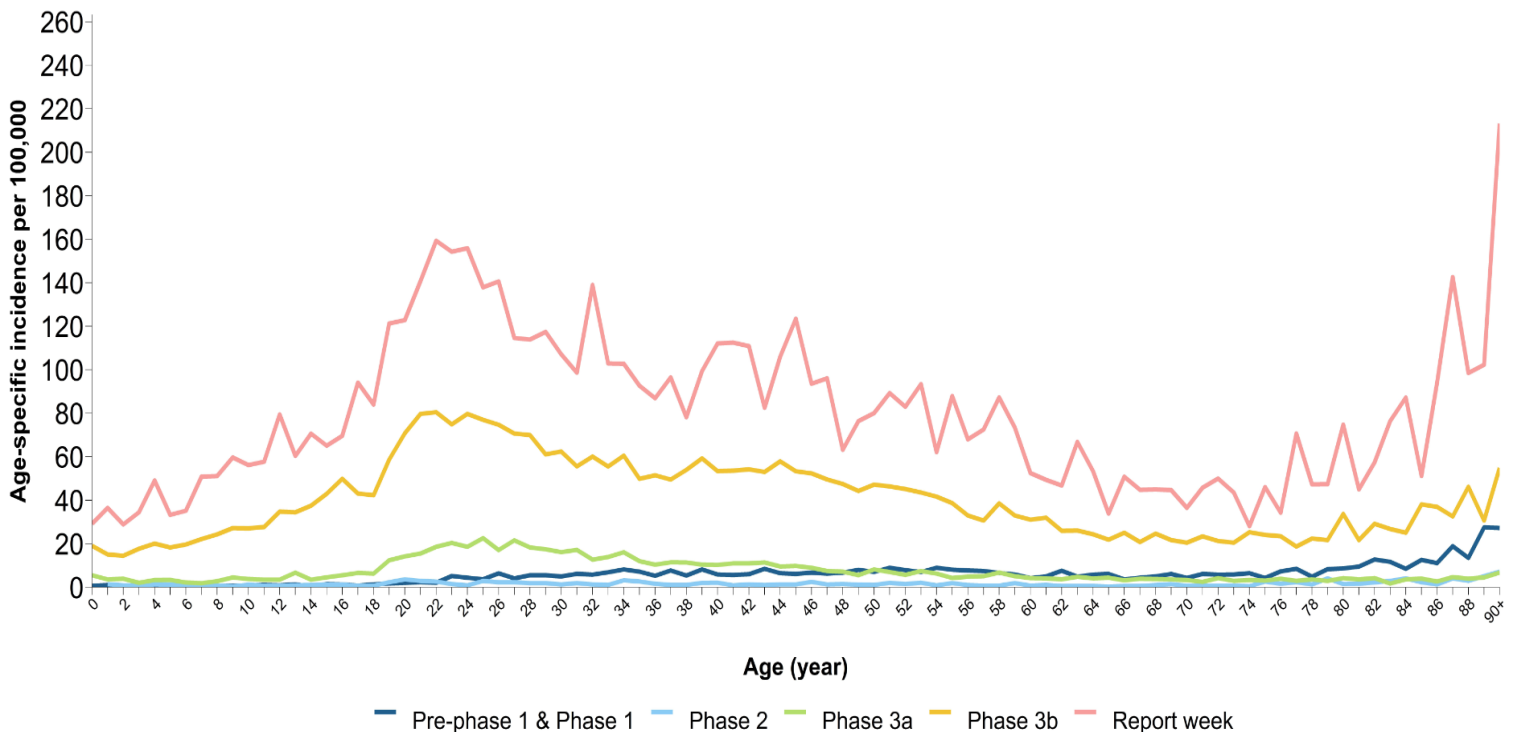


Figure 9. Average weekly incidence per 100K population by single year of age for pandemic phases 3a and 3b and current report week 46^b, BC January 15, 2020 (week 3) – November 28, 2020 (week 48) (N= 34,123)^a



a. Among those with available age information only.

b. The current report week, although part of Phase 3b, is excluded from derivations across prior weeks of Phase 3b to enable comparison, as displayed.

D. Severe outcome counts and epi-curve

There were 217 hospitalizations reported in week 48 (Table 1), comparable to the 219 admissions reported in week 47 but double the first wave peak of 107 hospital admissions in week 13 (Figure 10). In week 48 there were 82 deaths, 61% more than in week 47 (51) and triple the first wave peak in week 15 (26). In week 48, 57/82 (70%) deaths were associated with a care facility outbreak and 77/82 (94%) of deaths in week 48 were 70+ years old. Of the 435 total deaths to date, 298 (69%) were associated with a care facility outbreak and 378 (87%) were 70+ years old. Note that the ultimate timing of the second wave peak in severe outcomes has yet to be determined.

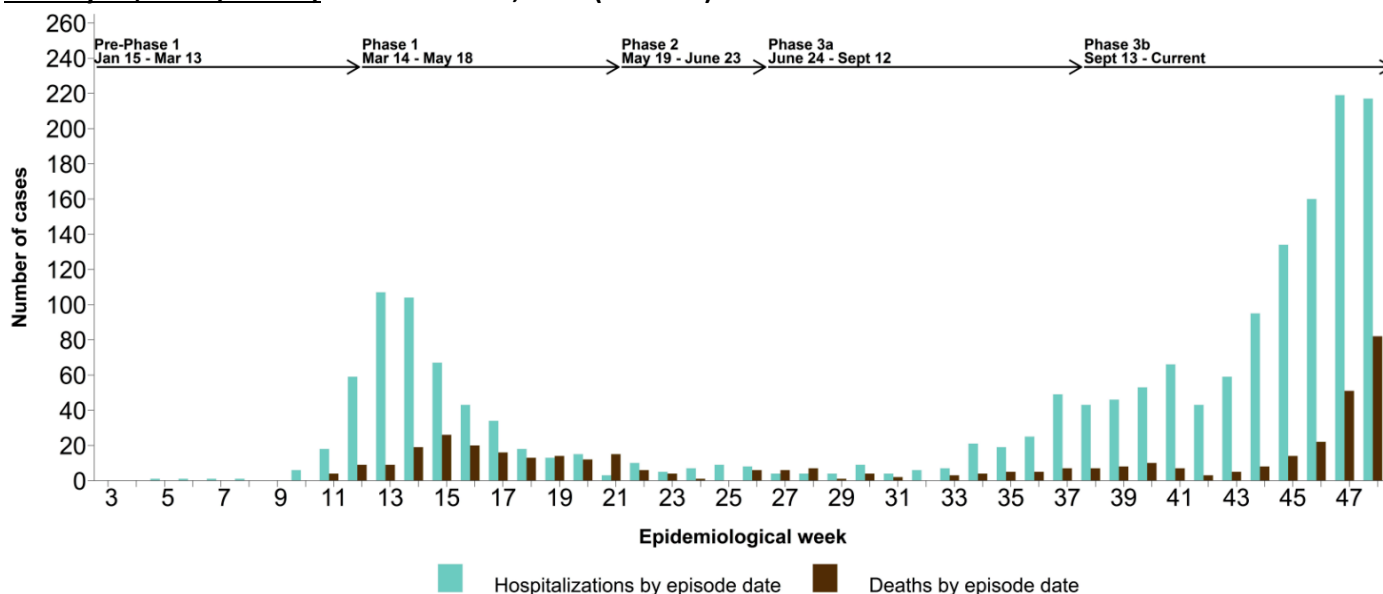
Overall, males comprise 17,359/34,084 (51%) cases, 1,066/1,813 (59%) hospitalizations, 288/468 (62%) ICU admissions and 245/435 (56%) deaths with known sex to date (not shown).

Table 1. COVID-19 severe outcomes by episode date, health authority of residence, and phase, BC January 15, 2020 (week 3) – November 28, 2020 (week 48)

Health authority of residence:	FHA	IHA	VIHA	NHA	VCHA	Outside Canada	Total n/N (%)
Ever Hospitalized	1,075	74	37	82	542	7	1,817/34,180 (5)^a
Pre-Phase 1 & Phase 1 (17 weeks)	245	29	25	12	176	2	489/1,817 (27)
Phase 2 (5 weeks)	26	1	0	2	6	1	36/1,817 (2)
Phase 3a (11.5 weeks)	100	5	0	10	40	2	157/1,817 (9)
Phase 3b (10 weeks, excluding week 48)	573	22	5	36	280	2	918/1,817 (51)
Week 48	131	17	7	22	40	0	217/1,817 (12)
Ever ICU	235	22	10	46	153	2	468/34,180 (1)^a
Pre-Phase 1 & Phase 1 (17 weeks)	76	13	9	7	67	1	173/468 (37)
Phase 2 (5 weeks)	6	0	0	1	2	0	9/468 (2)
Phase 3a (11.5 weeks)	25	1	0	7	15	1	49/468 (10)
Phase 3b (10 weeks, excluding week 48)	104	3	0	20	63	0	190/468 (41)
Week 48	24	5	1	11	6	0	47/468 (10)
Deaths	230	3	6	8	188	0	435/34180 (1)^a
Pre-Phase 1 & Phase 1 (17 weeks)	55	2	5	0	83	0	145/435 (33)
Phase 2 (5 weeks)	22	0	0	0	5	0	27/435 (6)
Phase 3a (11.5 weeks)	20	0	0	1	25	0	46/435 (11)
Phase 3b (10 weeks, excluding week 48)	81	1	1	5	47	0	135/435 (31)
Week 48	52	0	0	2	28	0	82/435 (19)

a. Cases with unknown outcome are included in the denominators (i.e. assumed not to have the specified severe outcome).

Figure 10. COVID-19 hospitalization admissions (n=1,817) and deaths (n= 435) by episode date^a, BC January 15, 2020 (week 3) – November 28, 2020 (week 48)



a. Note that in previous reports this figure was displayed only using available admission and death dates. With this week's report, data are displayed by episode date (i.e. date of hospital admission or date of death, and if those dates are missing, then report date).

E. Age profile, severe outcomes

As shown in [Table 2](#) and [Figure 11](#), adults 70+ years comprise 10% of COVID-19 cases, commensurate with their share of the general population of BC (13%), but are greatly over-represented among hospitalizations (44%) and deaths (88%).

Older adults 60-69 years comprise 8% of COVID-19 cases, and a greater proportion of hospitalizations (17%) but a commensurate proportion of deaths (9%) relative to their share of the BC population (13%).

Adults 40-59 years comprise 28% of COVID-19 cases and 26% of hospitalizations, which is commensurate with their share of the BC population (27%), but they are under-represented among COVID-19 deaths (4%).

Adults 20-39 years comprise a greater share of COVID-19 cases (42%) than their share of the BC population (28%), but are under-represented among COVID-19 hospitalizations (12%) and deaths (<1%).

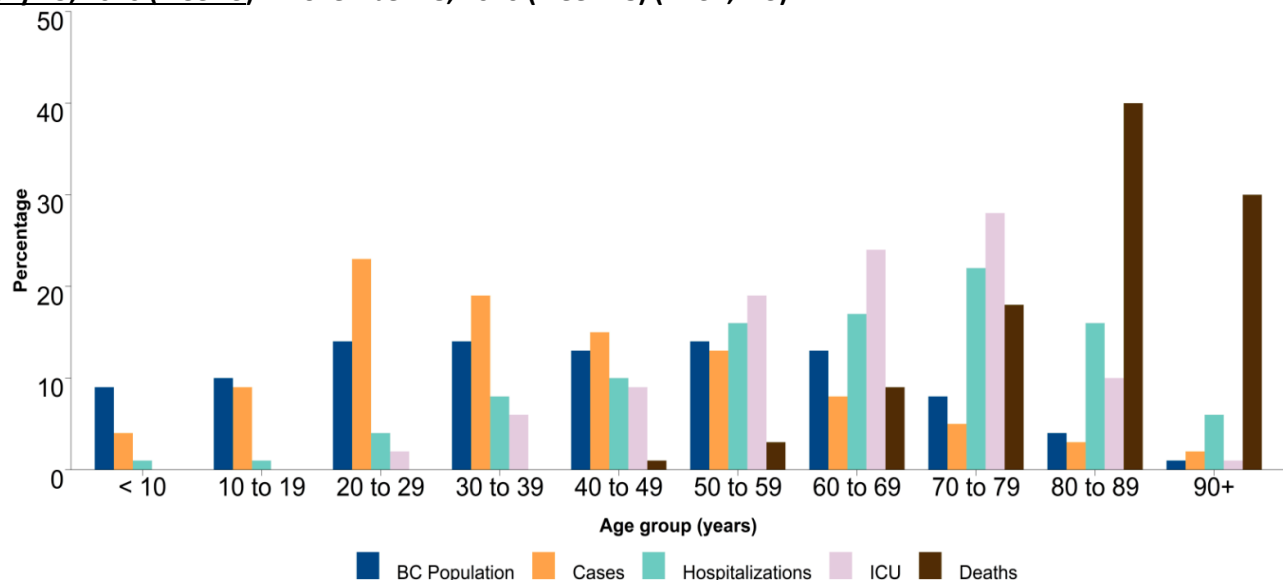
Children <20 years are under-represented overall among COVID-19 cases (13%) as well as severe outcomes (2% or less), relative to their share of the BC general population (19%).

Median age after vs. before Phase 3a is younger for hospitalizations (64 vs. 69 years) but similar for deaths (86 vs. 85 years).

**Table 2. Age distribution^a: COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, ICU admissions, deaths and BC population
 January 15, 2020 (week 3) – November 28, 2020 (week 48)**

Age group (years)	Cases n (%)	Hospitalizations n (%)	ICU n (%)	Deaths n (%)	General BC population n (%)
<10	1,350 (4)	18 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	469,351 (9)
10-19	2,964 (9)	13 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	527,805 (10)
20-29	7,915 (23)	74 (4)	9 (2)	0 (0)	697,691 (14)
30-39	6,461 (19)	148 (8)	30 (6)	1 (<1)	735,052 (14)
40-49	5,096 (15)	173 (10)	44 (9)	4 (1)	646,035 (13)
50-59	4,449 (13)	293 (16)	88 (19)	15 (3)	718,272 (14)
60-69	2,703 (8)	307 (17)	110 (24)	37 (9)	673,131 (13)
70-79	1,583 (5)	393 (22)	133 (28)	77 (18)	435,062 (8)
80-89	1,044 (3)	290 (16)	47 (10)	172 (40)	187,443 (4)
90+	558 (2)	107 (6)	7 (1)	129 (30)	49,726 (1)
Total	34,123	1,816	468	435	5,139,568
Median age	37	66	65	85	41

**Figure 11. COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, ICU admissions and deaths by age group, BC
 January 15, 2020 (week 3) – November 28, 2020 (week 48) (N=34,123)^a**



a. Among those with available age information only.

F. Likely sources of infection

As shown in [Table 3](#) and [Figure 12](#), local contact with a known case or cluster has most often been considered the source of infection across all pandemic phases to date.

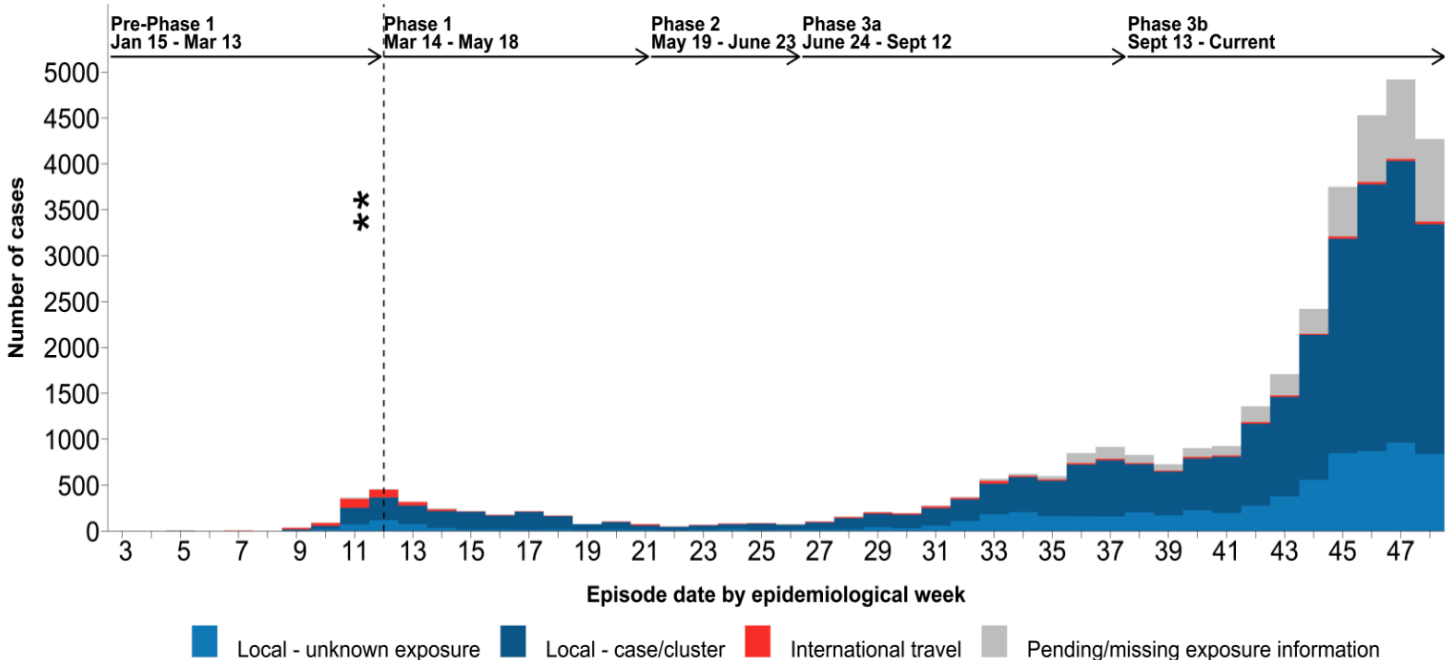
Prior to Phase 1, international travel was also a frequently cited source of SARS-CoV-2 infection in part reflecting high risk testing that targeted returning travelers. However, travel-related restrictions introduced in Phase 1 limited that contribution thereafter with clusters, such as in care facility settings, becoming a more prominent source.

Since around mid-Phase 3a more cases have cited unknown local exposure or that information remained pending or missing. International travel has been cited less often since Phase 3b and these patterns have been generally maintained through week 48 during which international travel was cited 1%.

Table 3. Likely source of COVID-19 infection by pandemic phase of episode date, British Columbia January 15, 2020 (week 3) – November 28, 2020 (week 48)

Phase n (row %)	International travel	Local – case/cluster	Local - unknown	Pending/missing
Pre-Phase 1	135 (30)	211 (46)	97 (21)	14 (3)
Phase 1	188 (9)	1,499 (72)	350 (17)	43 (2)
Phase 2	30 (8)	262 (70)	82 (22)	2 (1)
Phase 3a	181 (4)	3,212 (65)	1,174 (24)	352 (7)
Phase 3b (excluding week 48)	169 (1)	14,035 (64)	4,711 (21)	3,162 (14)
Week 48	29 (1)	2,503 (59)	840 (20)	899 (21)
Total	732 (2)	21,722 (64)	7,254 (21)	4,472 (13)

Figure 12. Likely source of COVID-19 infection by episode date, British Columbia January 15, 2020 (week 3) – November 28, 2020 (week 48)



** March 16: Travel related restrictions introduced.

G. Care facility outbreaks

As shown in [Table 4](#) and [Figure 13](#) 201 care facility outbreaks were reported in total in BC to the end of week 48. There were 16 new care facility outbreaks reported in week 48 (8 of which were reported by FHA, 7 by VCHA, and 1 by NHA), with 11 of these outbreaks having earliest onset date in preceding weeks. Facility outbreak tallies by earliest onset date are highest thus far in week 46 (24 outbreaks).

Fifty-seven of the 82 deaths in total reported in week 48 in BC involved adults in a care facility setting in Fraser Health Authority (41 deaths) or Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (16 deaths). All of these 57 deaths were elderly adults 70+ years.

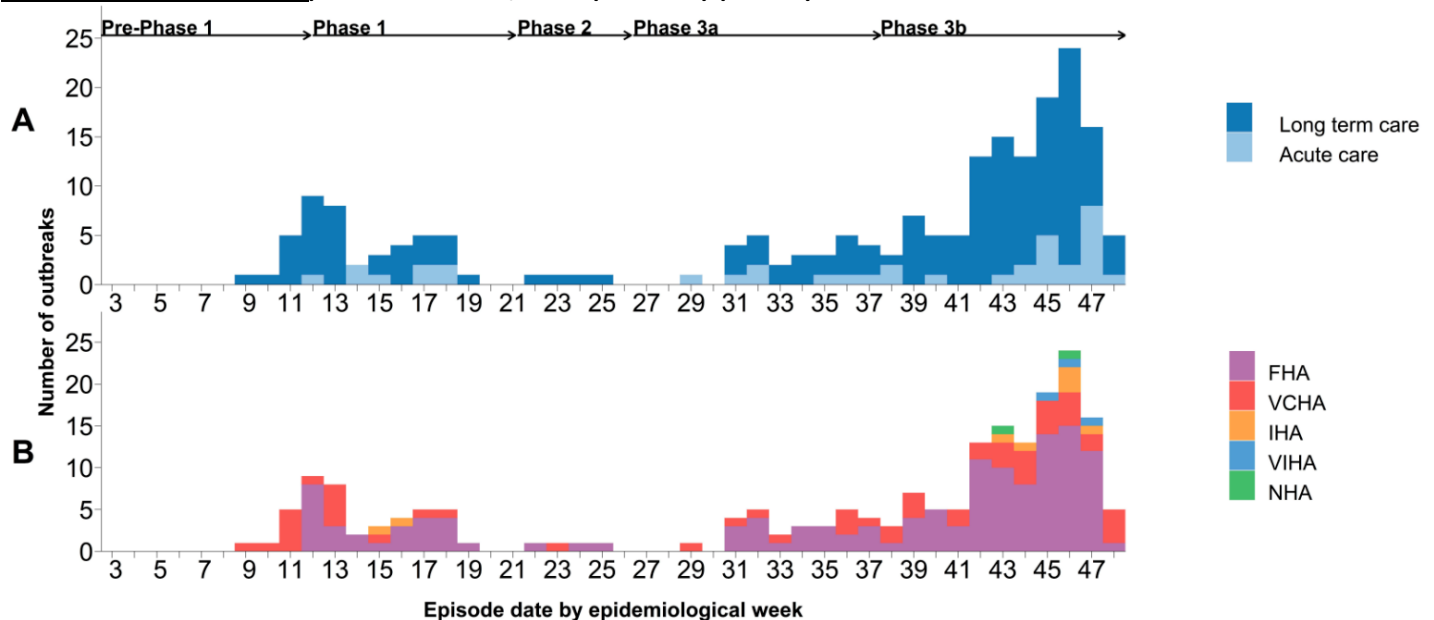
Of 26,348 cases overall in BC with episode date in Phase 3b (i.e. weeks 38-48), 1,632 (6%) were associated with a care facility outbreak, a proportion similar to Phase 3a overall (185/4,919; 4%), but lower than before Phase 3a (602/2,913; 21%).

Two-thirds of all COVID-19 deaths in BC have been associated with care facility outbreaks (298/435; 69%). Of those 298 facility outbreak-associated deaths, about half have occurred since the week 38 start of Phase 3b (139; 47%).

Table 4. COVID-19 care facility outbreaks^a and associated cases and deaths by phase of episode date, BC January 15, 2020 (week 3) – November 28, 2020 (week 48) (N=201)

	Outbreaks	Cases				Deaths			
		Residents	Staff/visitors	Unknown	Total	Residents	Staff/visitors	Unknown	Total
Total	201	1,423	975	21	2,419	298	0	0	298
Pre-/Phase One (17 weeks)	45	326	207	0	533	96	0	0	96
Phase 2 (5 weeks)	4	51	18	0	69	24	0	0	24
Phase 3a (11.5 weeks)	27	92	93	0	185	39	0	0	39
Phase 3b (10 weeks, excluding week 48)	120	722	543	17	1,282	82	0	0	82
Week 48	5	232	114	4	350	57	0	0	57
Active outbreaks ^b	70	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Outbreaks declared over ^b	131	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Figure 13. COVID-19 care facility outbreaks^a by earliest case onset^c, facility type (A) and health authority^d (B), BC January 15, 2020 (week 3) – November 28, 2020 (week 48) (N=201)



a. Long term care facilities include: group homes (community living), independent living, assisted living, and other residential facilities. Care facility (acute/long-term care/independent living) outbreaks have at least one lab-confirmed COVID-19 staff or resident.
 b. As of November 28, 2020
 c. Earliest dates of onset of outbreak cases are subject to change as investigations and data are updated.
 d. FHA=Fraser; VCHA=Vancouver Coastal; IHA=Interior; VIHA=Vancouver Island; NHA=Northern Health Authorities

H. Clinical indicators

HealthLink calls ([Figure 14](#)) related to COVID-19 have shown an overall increasing trend from week 32 to 40 at ~13,500 calls per week but decreasing in later weeks reaching just over 10,000 calls in week 43. Calls have gradually increased thereafter, and exceeded 14,000 calls in week 48.

BC Medical Services Plan (MSP) general practitioner claims ([Figure 15](#)) related to COVID-19 (including telehealth billings) showed slight increase from week 37 reaching >5,000 visits in week 40 but decreasing thereafter to around 3,300 visits in weeks 42 and 43, before increasing again in weeks 47 and 48 to ~5,200.

Figure 14. HealthLink BC calls related to COVID-19, BC
March 1, 2020 (week 10) – November 28, 2020 (week 48)

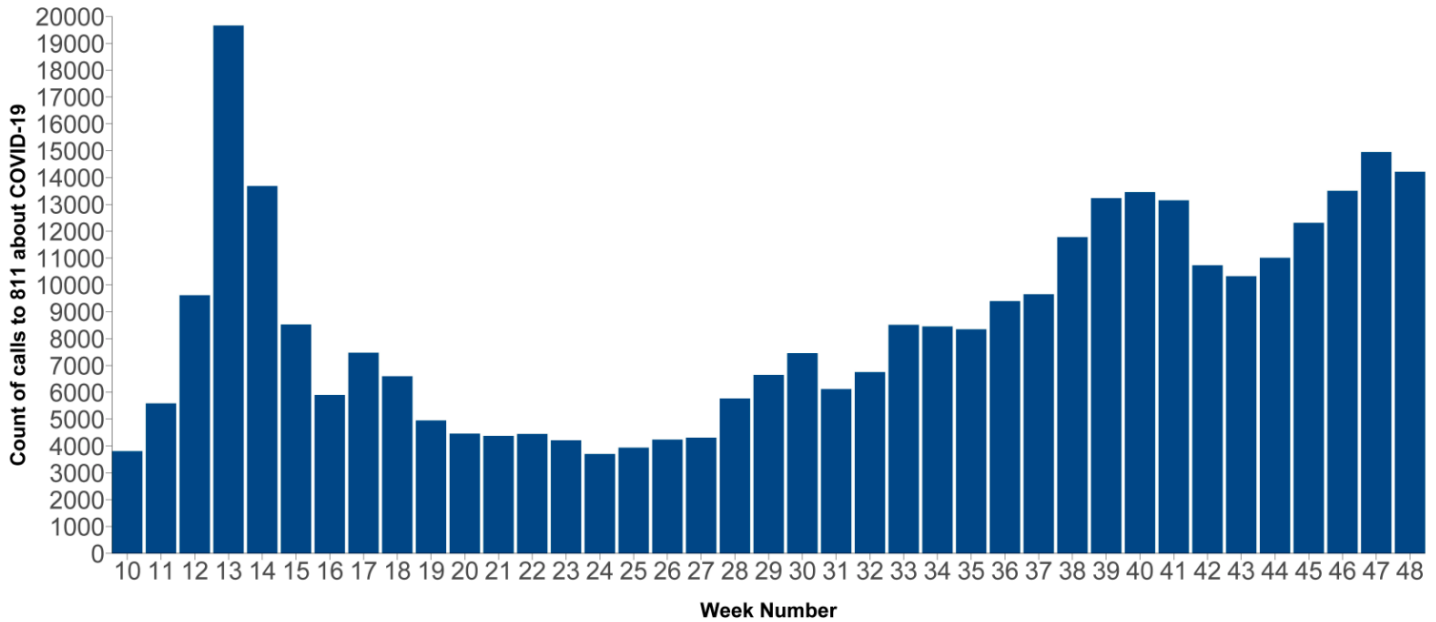


Figure 15. Medical Service Plan (MSP) claims (including telehealth billings) for COVID-19, BC
March 1, 2020 (week 10) – November 28, 2020 (week 48)

