



Office of the Chief Medical Health Officer

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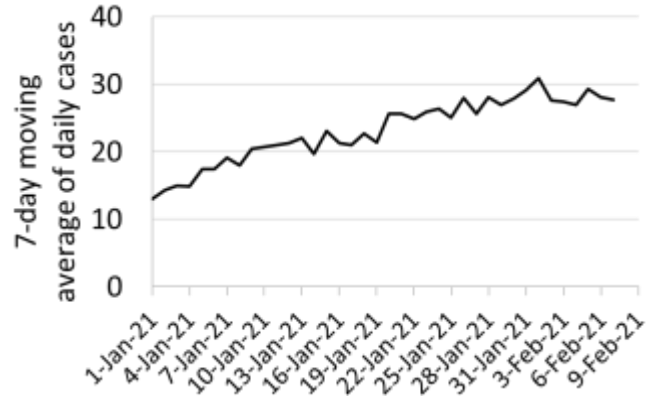
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February 10, 2021

COVID-19 Update #12

Situational assessment:

- COVID-19 daily incidence in Island Health has doubled so far in 2021. The rate of growth has decreased, with a recent plateau of the 7-day moving average of daily cases.
Currently, the Health Service Delivery Area with the highest rate of cases is Central Island, and within Central Island most cases are in the Greater Nanaimo Local Health Area. Information on COVID-19 activity at the Health Authority, Health Services Delivery Area, and Local Health Area levels can be accessed at bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data.



- 7-day lab testing percent positivity has increased to 3.5%, which is explained by both a rise in incidence and testing rates ~2/3 that of early December. >95% of those calling into the Call Centre continue to be tested within 24h. For clients requiring COVID-19 testing but are unable to attend a testing site in-person, mobile testing may be available.
During January, 45 Island Health cases were admitted to hospital (6.1% of all cases identified during the month). Of these, 13 were admitted to ICU. 9 deaths occurred in January.
The procedure for discharging COVID-19 inpatients has been updated at intranet.viha.ca/pnp/pnpdocs/discharge-suspected-confirmed-covid-19-patients.pdf.
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.
The majority of cases in Island Health continue to have an identified source of infection, with most linked to a known case or cluster.



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**MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICERS'
NEWSLETTER
No. 327**

COVID-19 Update #12

Updates:

Vaccination

- More than 27,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been provided within Island Health, including all eligible and consenting long-term care and assisted living residents and staff.
- The current focus is on “Hospital health care workers who may provide care for COVID-19 patients in settings like Intensive Care Units, emergency departments, paramedics, medical units and surgical units”, as per provincial prioritization accessible at bit.ly/365whhR. Plans are well underway for Phase 2 of vaccine roll-out.
- Many physicians have offered to aid in providing vaccines - thank you! Right now, the limiting factor is vaccine supply, not the number of immunizers. The best way to support is by continuing to provide:
 - Patient guidance (see previous MHO newsletter: bit.ly/3jDwMW7)
 - Medical management and reporting of adverse events following immunization (see previous MHO newsletter: bit.ly/3tDIPsd). As a reminder, the determination of eligibility for future doses lies with public health upon review of an AEFI.
- The BCCDC has released a statement on evidence supporting the deferral of second dose: bit.ly/2Z0Pa1y. A deeper dive into the evidence is provided in a presentation from Dr. Danuta Skowronski, viewable at bit.ly/3p26Btb. Currently, second doses are being booked at 42 days after the first.

Variants of Concern

- Variants of concern are specific SARS-CoV-2 variants that are flagged as being potentially more transmissible, virulent, and/or less likely to be protected against by current vaccines.
- A summary of these variants from the US CDC can be found at bit.ly/3tJ3Kcu.
- Four cases of the B.1.1.7 variant have been detected within Island Health, associated with two returning travellers and two contacts. Surveillance for variants of concern continues.

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: all of BC and by Health Authority, Health Service Delivery Area, and Local Health Area, also includes weekly in-depth situation reports
- Provincial restrictions: gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-rec-overly/covid-19-provincial-support/res-trictions