

October 6, 2021 – Mandatory Vaccination Coming for All Healthcare Workers in British Columbia (BC)

In yesterday's provincial briefing, Dr. Bonnie Henry shared updates around an [updated mandatory vaccination public health order](#) (PHO) impacting long-term care and assisted living sites in British Columbia (BC). The order takes effect Tuesday, October 13th and changes include:

- Visitor vaccine requirements:
 - Visitors to long-term care, assisted living and tertiary mental health sites will be required to be fully immunized – and show their vaccine passport – effective October 13; and
 - Visitors to acute facilities will be required to be fully immunized – and show their vaccine passport – effective October 26. Some non-vaccinated visit exceptions granted for palliative or end-of-life care.
- A provision to allow health care workers who get their first dose by October 12th to work, with preventative measures in place and a commitment to get their second dose 28-35 days after their first dose.

The order for the mandatory vaccination of the broader health care sector and healthcare workers outside of long-term care and assisted living is still under development, with consultation taking place with HEABC, unions, health authorities, colleges of physicians and nurses and others who are affected. Dr. Henry says the consultation process is in the final stages, and the order will be posted in the next few days so people can see the details. We are waiting for clarity on the:

- process for medical staff seeking exemptions;
- work restrictions for medical staff who are only partially vaccinated;
- definition for healthcare workers and their relationship to and interactions with Island Health facilities; and
- Provincial direction on consequences for non-compliance with the Order.

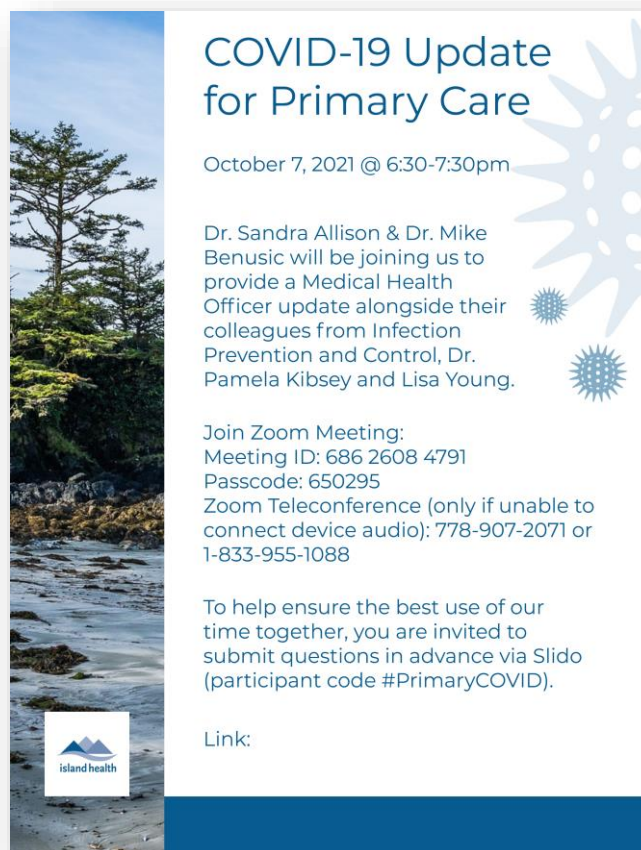
Dr. Richard Stanwick shared at this week's Staff and Medical Leadership Townhalls that all COVID-19 cases in Island Health are the delta variant, and of hospital cases 91% are unvaccinated; we are currently seeing ~70-80 new cases per day this week in Island Health region.

[COVID-19 Zoom Update for Primary Care](#)

Dr. Sandra Allison and Dr. Mike Benusic will be providing a Medical Health Officer update alongside their colleagues from Infection Prevention and Control, Dr. Pamela Kibsey and Lisa Young.

Why not [ask a question](#)? #PrimaryCOVID

- Meeting ID: **686 2608 4791** Passcode: **650295**
- Zoom Teleconference (only if unable to connect device audio): **778-907-2071 or 1-833-955-1088**



**COVID-19 Update
for Primary Care**


October 7, 2021 @ 6:30-7:30pm

Dr. Sandra Allison & Dr. Mike Benusic will be joining us to provide a Medical Health Officer update alongside their colleagues from Infection Prevention and Control, Dr. Pamela Kibsey and Lisa Young.

Join Zoom Meeting:
Meeting ID: 686 2608 4791
Passcode: 650295
Zoom Teleconference (only if unable to connect device audio): 778-907-2071 or 1-833-955-1088

To help ensure the best use of our time together, you are invited to submit questions in advance via Slido (participant code #PrimaryCOVID).

Link:



| Island Health Region Total Vaccines Administered To Date | % Population Immunized (18+) 1st Dose To Date | % Population Immunized (12+) 1st Dose To Date | % Population Immunized (18+) 2nd Dose To Date |
|--|--|--|--|
| 1,330,859 | 90.8% | 90.5% | 85.1% |

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

[National Advisory Committee on Immunization \(NACI\) – Advisory Committee Statement](#)

- NACI recommends that COVID-19 vaccines may be given concomitantly with, or at any time before or after, other approved vaccines in Canada.

[Planning Influenza Clinics for Primary Care Providers](#)

- Island Health is providing Information, guidance and FAQs that will assist medical clinics in operationalizing vaccine service (e.g. ordering, cold chain, AFIs, etc) for patients in the community.
 - Read the recent Island Health Medical Health Officers [update to Primary Care Providers](#).
 - To directly receive the MHO newsletter in your inbox if you are not receiving them, providers can add/update their distribution info with the local MHO admin support using these [instructions](#).

[Primary Care Health Screening Questionnaire Poster for Clinics](#)

- Primary care providers can use this easy health screening questionnaire to assess patients entering their clinics.
- **Do you have additional questions around infection prevention and control practices in your office?**
The Island Health Infection and Prevention Control and Environmental Health teams are able to help. Questions can be sent to IPAC.Enquiries@IslandHealth.ca with the subject line “**Primary Care**” and will be answered as soon as possible based on team capacity. As we get a sense of the types of questions coming in, we will work to develop some frequently asked questions and answers and share these out through our Primary Care Newsletters.

COVID-19 Testing for Primary Care Providers and Healthcare Workers

- A reminder to all primary care providers that our priority call line is still in service. If testing is recommended, symptomatic care providers (including primary care and subspecialty providers) can access priority COVID-19 testing by calling 1-833-737-9377 – seven days a week - 8AM - 4PM. Our call centre will slot you into the next available spot.
- If you have symptoms and you feel ill, please stay home. As we head into the fall, we all must remain vigilant to keep COVID and its variants – as well as other respiratory viruses – out of our offices and communities. Please note: priority testing is only available to care providers. Family, friends and office staff are required to continue using the general call centre line: 1-844-901-8442, daily from 8AM-4PM.

[Find a COVID-19 Immunization Clinic](#)

- Find Island Health region [immunization clinic listings](#).

Island Health Email Addresses Changing

- Since September 28th, you'll notice any email coming from your Island Health contacts will change from @viha.ca to @islandhealth.ca. While @viha.ca will continue to work for some time – please update your contacts with the new addresses. If you have an @viha.ca email account – you should update your signature block with your new @islandhealth.ca email to alert your contacts to this change.

[UBC Graduate Certificate in Primary Health Care](#)

- The new information poster for the new UBC Graduate Certificate in Primary Health Care.

LINKS, RESOURCES & FAQs

BCCDC Resources:

- [New Today](#): This section of the website highlights the latest guidance documents and updates to the website for health professionals.
- [About the vaccines](#)
- [Resources for Health Professionals](#)
- [Reporting adverse events](#)

Doctors of BC:

- [Info for doctors getting or giving the vaccine](#)
- [Updated toolkit for doctors' offices](#)

Frequently Asked Questions:

- [ImmunizeBC FAQ](#)