

Office of the Chief Medical Health Officer

NORTH ISLAND 250.331.8591

Charmaine Enns MD MHSc FRCPC 355-11th Street Courtenay, BC V9N IS4

CENTRAL ISLAND 250.739.6304

Sandra Allison
MD MPH CCFP FCFP FRCPC

Mike Benusic MD MPH FRCPC

3rd Floor, 6475 Metral Drive Nanaimo, BC V9T 2L9

COWICHAN AREA 250.737.2020

Shannon Waters MD MHSc FRCPC 4th floor 238 Government St Duncan, BC V9L IA5

SOUTH ISLAND

250.519.3406 Richard Stanwick, CMHO MD MSc FRCPC FAAP

Murray Fyfe MD MSc FRCPC

Dee Hoyano
MD FRCPC CCFP

1837 Fort Street Victoria, BC V8R IJ6

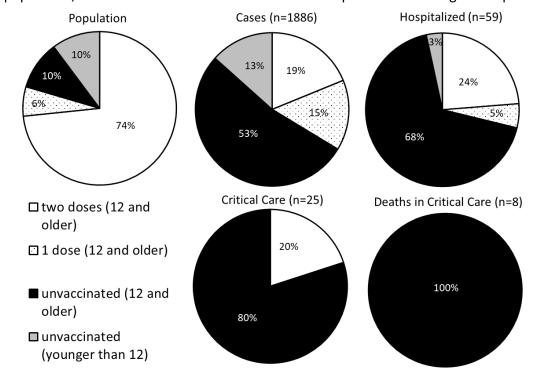
After Hours On Call 1.800,204.6166

MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICERS' NEWSLETTER No. 335

September 22, 2021

 We continue to see a stark differential in incidence and severity based on vaccination status. The following depicts the current vaccination status of the Island Health population, and a breakdown of Island Health cases reported from 1 Aug - 10 Sept 2021:

COVID-19 Update #18



- Medical contraindications to COVID-19 vaccination are extremely rare. Guidance from the CPSBC on exemption requests can be found at bit.ly/3Ezpool. Currently, there is only a medical exemption process for LTC & Assisted Living staff; see pg. 15 of bit.ly/3tYjlol.
- If a client has concerns of an adverse event following immunization and is seeking guidance for subsequent vaccination, please refer to previous newsletter for guidance: bit.ly/3tDIPsd. A 1-page reporting form is available at bit.ly/2Ta8JFe.
- Certain people are eligible for a third dose of vaccine based on likely having an inadequate immune response to the primary series. Criteria is at bit.ly/3AvaWM5. Most will be contacted directly, and an attestation letter can be provided to those who meet criteria but have not been contacted; see bit.ly/2Z6RebG.
- All immunization clinics accept walk-ins for first doses and second doses at least 28 days after the first; site information can be accessed at covid19.islandclinics.ca/.
- Since July 2021, the BCCDC recommendation for fully vaccinated people who have had a COVID-19 exposure is to self-monitor and not to self-isolate unless symptomatic (bit.ly/3hawdSL). This includes contacts who are healthcare workers.
- Resources for patient counselling on COVID-19 vaccination:
 - Patient-oriented Q+A: immunizebc.ca/covid-19
 - Healthcare provider communication tool: <u>bit.ly/3j4cOFj</u>
 - BCCDC toolkit for health professionals: bit.ly/382A1Bl