



**Office of the
Chief Medical
Health Officer**

NORTH ISLAND

250.331.8591

Charmaine Enns
MD MHSc FRCPC
355-11th Street
Courtenay, BC V9N 1S4

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 1A5

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 1J6

After Hours On Call

1.800.204.6166

**MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICERS'
NEWSLETTER
No. 331**

April 30, 2021

COVID-19 Update #14

Updates:

Vaccination

- Over 300,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been provided within Island Health, and ~40% of the adult population has been vaccinated.
- We continue to anticipate that all adults in BC will be offered vaccine by the end of June. Eligibility timeline and registration links are accessible at bit.ly/365whhR.

Thrombocytopenia with Thrombosis Syndrome (TTS)

- While no cases of vaccine-related thrombocytopenia with thrombosis syndrome (TTS) have been identified in Island Health, this rare syndrome has been reported elsewhere following administration of COVID-19 virus vector vaccines (AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD and Janssen/Johnson & Johnson).
- Estimated incidence is between 1 in 100,000 to 1 in one million recipients of these vaccines. ~17,000 doses of AZ/COVISHIELD have been administered within Island Health.
- Most severe reports have involved cerebral venous sinus and splanchnic vein thrombosis.
- At this time, any thrombosis identified 4-20 days following either of these types of COVID-19 vaccines should be considered as potentially associated. High index of suspicion should be applied for severe persistent headache especially with visual blurring, diplopia and/or seizure, severe abdominal pain, or new severe swelling, pain, or colour change of a limb.
- Refer to provincial guidance for identification and management: bit.ly/3tuCvAP. All suspected cases must be reported as per bit.ly/3tDIPsd.

Variants of Concern

- Variants of concern (VOCs) are becoming the dominant strains in BC and Island Health, mainly B117 and P1.
- As of earlier this month, all reported cases in Island Health are assumed to be VOCs and case and contact management has been refined to account for the relatively higher transmissibility.
- From the experience of many other jurisdictions, the introduction of VOCs are correlated with a surge of cases and the eventual dominance of VOCs. However, a sustained increase in incidence is not inevitable, and this is being seen in Island Health and BC as a whole.
- A summary of these variants from the BCCDC can be found at bit.ly/2QGTGSYR.

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
- Provincial restrictions: gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/restrictions



Office of the Chief Medical Health Officer

NORTH ISLAND 250.331.8591

Charmaine Enns MD MHSc FRCPC 355-11th Street Courtenay, BC V9N 1S4

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 1A5

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 1J6

After Hours On Call 1.800.204.6166

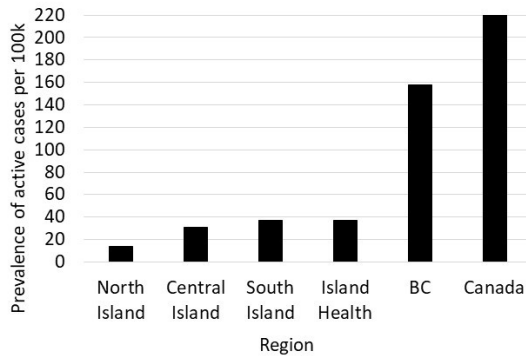
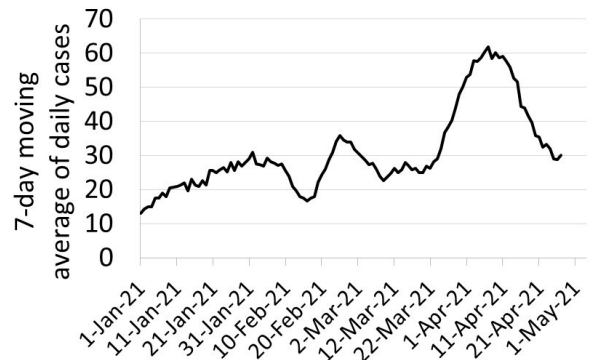
MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICERS' NEWSLETTER No. 331

April 30, 2021

COVID-19 Update #14

Situational assessment:

- COVID-19 daily incidence in Island Health increased sharply in early April, coinciding with the 'third-wave' in BC. Current 7-day moving average of daily cases is 30, similar to incidence in March.



- The prevalence of active cases in Island Health, adjusted by population size, is 76% lower than BC and 83% lower than Canada. Local Health Area level data can be accessed at bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data.

- 7-day lab testing percent positivity is 3.4% - nearly half of that seen in early April. Almost all calling into the Call Centre are tested the day of or day after. For clients requiring COVID-19 testing but are unable to attend a testing site in-person, mobile testing may be available. Either direct clients to make this request when booking a test, or call 1-844-901-8442 on their behalf and request mobile testing.
- Currently 19 COVID-19 cases are hospitalized (5.9% of active cases) with 7 in HAU/ICU (2.2% of active cases). The average age of currently hospitalized cases is 67.
- 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. Cases and contacts receive virtual follow-up until they have successfully completed required periods of self-isolation or quarantine. Please note: this monitoring is predominantly for public health reasons (to ensure isolation and determine if contacts have developed symptoms), and does not replace clinical care. For select COVID-19 cases requiring a higher level of monitoring in the community, Intensive Home Monitoring is available upon referral: intranet.viha.ca/departments/hcc/hcc_index/Pages/ihtm.aspx
- The majority of cases in Island Health continue to have an identified source of infection, with most linked to a known case or cluster.
- Currently, there are two long-term care outbreaks: both in Victoria with a total of 4 cases (3 staff, 1 resident). There are no active hospital outbreaks.