

## LATEST UPDATE – JANUARY 27, 2022

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In an effort to keep our community partners connected, we are providing you with regular COVID-19 updates.

### Sharing our condolences and support with Indigenous peoples

This week, we learned about another discovery of unmarked graves at the former site of the [St. Joseph's Mission Residential School](#) located in B.C.'s Central Interior. We mourn with the families of these Nations and extend our deepest condolences to those who are suffering from this loss and re-experiencing this tragedy with each new discovery.

As VCH continues on our journey of truth and reconciliation, we want to acknowledge the pain and trauma experienced by Indigenous peoples, including our staff and medical staff. We remain committed to upholding the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#) (UNDRIP) and addressing the clear actions outlined in the [In Plain Sight: Addressing Indigenous-specific racism and discrimination in BC health care](#) report. VCH will continue to stand alongside Indigenous peoples and we walk with you in this healing process.

We recognize the ongoing distress and anguish of these historical wrongs as well as the immense healing needed as we continue to uncover unmarked graves and these harrowing truths. Confidential support for Indigenous peoples is available through the 24-hour Residential School Crisis Line at 1-866-925-4419.

### Updates to Provincial Health Orders

Earlier this week, Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry announced that the BC Vaccine Card program will remain in effect until June 30, 2022. The vaccine card program will be reviewed regularly and ended sooner if the situation changes.

Sport tournaments for children and youth will resume effective Feb. 1, 2022. The prohibition on adult tournaments will continue to be in effect. More details on the current PHO orders can be found [here](#).

### Vancouver Coastal Health COVID-19 testing update

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) has adjusted clinical processes and practices across our testing sites to align with [new provincial testing guidelines](#), which prioritize testing for those at higher risk of serious illness and those who live or work in high-risk settings. Further information about the new testing criteria is available on the [BCCDC website](#).

Before attending a VCH testing site, please ensure you are eligible for testing. If you are not eligible, guidance on self-monitoring and self-isolation is available on [the BCCDC website](#).

Due to a significant reduction in demand on testing services, VCH will also close its COVID-19 testing site located at the UBC Life Sciences Centre effective Thursday Jan. 27. This site was established as a temporary testing location on Dec. 24 to support other Vancouver-based sites

in meeting a significant surge in those accessing testing from late December through to Jan. 2022.

VCH public testing sites do not provide testing for travel and recreational purposes. VCH testing sites will not test individuals who require proof of a negative test to return to work, school or recreational activities. [A list of private pay clinics](#) that accommodate testing services for these purposes is available on the [BCCDC website](#).

### **VCH vaccination clinics**

On Jan. 25, 2022, NACI issued updated guidance and now **recommends a complete series of the Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty vaccine should be offered to children 5 to 11 years of age who do not have contraindications to the vaccine.**

All VCH clinics are accepting drop-ins for first and second doses, but appointments are required for children aged five to 11 years old, and for booster or third doses. All are welcome at our clinics, including those without personal health numbers and people who are not residents of B.C. To book a vaccine appointment, [register on the provincial system](#) or call 1-833-838-2323. [Service BC locations](#) can also help you register for a vaccine.

Access a full list of VCH vaccination clinics, including pop-up clinics, by visiting <http://www.vch.ca/vaccine>.

Get your BC Vaccine Card online at [gov.bc.ca/vaccinecard](http://gov.bc.ca/vaccinecard). Once verified, you will be able to save a digital copy to your mobile device or print a hard copy to present along with your government-issued photo identification when entering designated businesses. Don't have access to a computer? Get your card from a Service BC Centre or by calling 1-833-838-2323 at the Get Vaccinated call centre.

### **Construction starts on new Lions Gate tower**

People on the North Shore and in coastal communities are closer to accessing public health-care services in a modern environment as work begins on a new patient care tower at Lions Gate Hospital.

The six-storey Paul Myers Tower will have eight operating rooms, a pre-operative and post-operative care area, including anesthesia intervention and isolation rooms. There will be 108 beds in 84 single rooms. All will have ensuite washrooms.

The new acute care tower will be built on the current Lions Gate Hospital site where the former North Vancouver General Hospital was located. Also known as the Activation building, it was demolished in spring 2017.

Vancouver Coastal Health is working in collaboration Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations to ensure both the design of the new tower and the services provided support the provision of culturally safe care.

The project cost of approximately \$310 million will be shared between the Province, Vancouver Coastal Health, and a \$100-million fundraising campaign by Lions Gate Hospital Foundation. The

new tower is named after North Shore businessperson and philanthropist Paul Myers, who donated \$25 million.

The tower is expected to be ready for patients in 2024.

Read more [here](#).

### **COVID-19 vaccine update**

As of Thursday, Jan. 27, 2022, 89.7% (4,471,873) of eligible people five and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 83.7% (4,171,956) have received their second dose.

In addition, 92.6% (4,294,225) of eligible people 12 and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, 90.0% (4,169,419) have received their second dose and 43.0% (1,993,191) have received a third dose.

Also, 93.0% (4,022,496) of all eligible adults in B.C. have received their first dose, 90.4% (3,910,652) received their second dose and 46.0% (1,991,534) have received a third dose.

### **Ministry of Health update**

In the Jan. 27, 2022, [statement](#) on B.C.'s COVID-19 response, 977 COVID-positive individuals are in hospital and 141 are in intensive care. In the past 24 hours, 13 new deaths have been reported, for an overall total of 2,588.

2,033 new cases were reported with 378 of those in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) area.

The total number of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in B.C. now stands at 318,906 since the start of the pandemic. There are 29,556 active cases of COVID-19 across B.C. currently.

### **VCH recognized as one of Canada's Best Employers by Forbes**

For the second year in a row, VCH has been recognized on Forbes' annual list of [Canada's Best Employers](#). VCH is one of 30 employers in the health-care industry to make the 2022 list.

learn more [here](#).

Interested in exploring career opportunities within VCH? Visit [careers.vch.ca](https://careers.vch.ca).

### **Vancouver Coastal Health winter care campaign – know where to go for the right care**

Winter can be an exciting time of year, but it also comes with an increase in people visiting the emergency department (ED). While it is important to visit the E for emergent health issues, non-life threatening urgent and non-urgent conditions can often be effectively managed by urgent primary care centres (UPCCs), family doctors, walk-in clinics or other services. Those who are unsure where to access care can call 8-1-1 for general health guidance and information on services available in their local community.

Both hospitals and community clinics continue to be safe place to access treatment and care. Find out more [here](#) about where and when to seek care this winter.

Access translated resources in the following languages:

Winter care poster in [English](#) | [Chinese Simplified \(简体中文\)](#) | [Traditional \(繁體中文\)](#) | [Punjabi \(ਪੰਜਾਬੀ\)](#) | [Arabic](#) | [Korean \(한국어\)](#) | [Tagalog](#) | [Japanese](#) | [Farsi](#) | [Russian](#) | [Spanish \(Español\)](#) | [Vietnamese \(Tiếng Việt\)](#)

Winter care postcard in [English](#) | [Chinese Simplified \(简体中文\)](#) | [Traditional \(繁體中文\)](#) | [Punjabi \(ਪੰਜਾਬੀ\)](#) | [Arabic](#) | [Korean \(한국어\)](#) | [Tagalog](#) | [Japanese](#) | [Farsi](#) | [Russian](#) | [Spanish \(Español\)](#) | [Vietnamese \(Tiếng Việt\)](#)

### Community engagement opportunities

VCH values community input. Please consider participating in or sharing the featured community engagement opportunities below:

- [PCN Steering Committees - Vancouver Division of Family Practice](#) **\*New\***  
The Vancouver Divisions of Family Practice (VDoFP) is seeking to add 2 – 3 additional Patient Partners who receive their primary care (provided by a family physician or nurse practitioner) in Vancouver.
- [Assertive Community Treatment Website Development](#)  
Navigating information about mental health and substance use (MHSU) services is critical when you or someone you care for is in crisis. Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) is working to create a website that helps MSHU clients, their families and friends to quickly find important information about Assertive Community Treatment (ACT). We want to hear from individuals across the province in a survey, a focus group, and individual interviews for the development of the ACT website.
- [Patient Advisor - "Code Blue" training review for staff](#)  
The Mock Code Blue Simulation Program helps train healthcare staff in responding to a code blue event. This training program now has an opportunity to involve patient/family/public partners for their input. Specifically the program is looking to improve the quality of the communication when the primary care team reports to the Code Blue Team upon their arrival.
- [Survey - Medical imaging brochures](#)  
Richmond Hospital's medical imaging team has developed medical imaging brochures that will be provided to patients. The goals of these brochures are to decrease the nervousness that some patients may experience before taking medical imaging tests and to help them become more knowledgeable about the tests. We would like your feedback on the brochures so that we can determine if our messaging is clear and if not, how it can be improved from your perspective.

VCH community engagement opportunities can be found on our [Engage VCH](#) homepage.

## Home support resource pamphlet

VCH has developed some resource material for home support services and how to access it. This information is available in various languages.

- **Home support pamphlet**

[[English](#)] | [[العربية Arabic](#)] | [[فارسی Farsi](#)] | [[Français French](#)] | [[Español Spanish](#)] | [[Tagalog](#)] | [[Tiếng Việt Vietnamese](#)]

- **Home support client handbook**

[[English](#)] | [[فارسی Farsi](#)]

## Other resources

Find the Provincial Health Officer's orders [here](#).

To see a map of **COVID-19 cases by local health area**, visit [here](#).

For the **latest medical updates**, including case counts, prevention, risks and testing, visit: <http://www.bccdc.ca/>

For **community engagement opportunities** at VCH, see: <https://engage.vch.ca/>

## COVID-19 vaccination resource toolkit

- **COVID-19 vaccine registration poster**

[[English](#)] | [[العربية Arabic](#)] | [[简体中文 Chinese Simplified](#)] | [[繁體中文 Chinese Traditional](#)] | [[فارسی Farsi](#)] | [[한국어 Korean](#)] | [[ਪੰਜਾਬੀ Punjabi](#)] | [[Español Spanish](#)] | [[Tagalog](#)] | [[Tiếng Việt Vietnamese](#)]

- **Vaccine safety information**

[[English](#)] | [[简体中文 Chinese Simplified](#)] | [[繁體中文 Chinese Traditional](#)] | [[한국어 Korean](#)] | [[ਪੰਜਾਬੀ Punjabi](#)] | [[Tagalog](#)]

- **Aftercare information**

[[English](#)] | [[العربية Arabic](#)] | [[American Sign Language - ASL](#)] | [[简体中文 Chinese Simplified](#)] | [[繁體中文 Chinese Traditional](#)] | [[فارسی Farsi](#)] | [[Français French](#)] | [[한국어 Korean](#)] | [[ਪੰਜਾਬੀ Punjabi](#)] | [[Español Spanish](#)] | [[Tigrinya](#)] | [[Tiếng Việt Vietnamese](#)]

- **COVID-19 vaccine information sessions hosted by S.U.C.C.E.S.S. and VCH (Cantonese and Mandarin)**

[[Cantonese](#)] | [[Mandarin](#)]

- **COVID-19 vaccine Q&A with Dr. Ray Chaboyer**

[[English](#)]

- **COVID-19 vaccine info session by VCH Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. Patricia Daly**

[[English](#)]

## Thank you

We appreciate the time you spend reading these updates and hope you find the information and resources useful. If you no longer wish to receive the VCH Community Partner Update, please reply or send an email to [ce@vch.ca](mailto:ce@vch.ca) with the word “unsubscribe”. Thank you.

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## Land Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge that our places of work and the Vancouver Coastal Health facilities lie on the traditional, unceded homelands of the fourteen First Nation Communities of the Heiltsuk, Kitasoo-Xai'xais, Lil'wat, Musqueam, N'Quatqua, Nuxalk, Samahquam, Sechelt, Skatin, Squamish, Tla'amin, Tsleil-Waututh, Wuikinuxv, and Xa'xtsa.