

## LATEST UPDATE – Mar. 16, 2021

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

### Ministry of Health update

In yesterday's joint statement on B.C.'s COVID-19 response, Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, reported 1,506 new cases covering the past three days.

- Friday to Saturday: 555 new cases
- Saturday to Sunday: 491 new cases
- Sunday to Monday: 460 new cases

The total number of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in B.C. now stands at 88,373 since the start of the pandemic. Of the new cases, 382 people were in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region.

Across the province, there were ten new COVID-19 related deaths, while 269 people are currently hospitalized, with 76 of these cases receiving treatment in ICU/critical care. The total number of individuals who have passed away due to COVID-19 is 1,407. There are 4,987 active cases of COVID-19 across B.C. currently.

There have been 163 new confirmed COVID-19 cases that are variants of concern in our province over the last three days, for a total of 880 cases. Of the total cases, 195 are active and the remaining people have recovered. This includes 818 cases of the B.1.1.7 (U.K.) variant, 41 cases of the B.1.351 (South Africa) variant and 21 cases of the P.1 (Brazil) variant.

Dr. Henry said she is looking at ways to allow outdoor faith services for Passover and Easter. She is also working towards a gradual and safe phased reopening of indoor faith services and hopes to have more details on both next week.

### Vaccination update

Since the start of immunizations, 409,103 vaccinations have been delivered in B.C. (not including today), with 87,059 of those being a second dose.

Dr. Henry spoke about her confidence in the safety of the AZ/SII saying more than 17 million doses have been administered world-wide and 37 people have suffered blood clot issues. She said this rate is lower than what would be seen in the general population without vaccination. She is watching the on-going assessments in Europe very carefully and notes she has seen no safety signals in the UK, Canada or in India.

As the first doses of AstraZeneca/SII (AZ/SII) arrive in B.C., work is underway to use this vaccine to assist with outbreak responses in communities and protect workers throughout the province.

The initial shipment of AZ/SII vaccine will be used to protect workers in industries where full use of personal protective equipment and barriers can be challenging, outbreaks and clusters have occurred or are ongoing, and workers must live or work in congregate settings. Immunizing workers in these settings will not only protect workers, it will also protect the communities around them, including many rural, remote and Indigenous communities.

By deploying AZ/SII in this way, B.C. will be able to manage outbreaks, prevent them before they occur and deploy vaccines strategically to reduce COVID-19 transmission in B.C. Public health and WorkSafeBC have identified the highest risk categories of worksites through the COVID-19 Workplace Task Group established by the PHO in November 2020. These include:

- food processing plants, including poultry, fruit and fish processing;
- agricultural operations with congregate worker accommodations, including farms, nurseries and greenhouses;
- large industrial camps under the PHO Industrial Camps order with congregate accommodations for workers; and
- other large congregate living settings for workers where isolation and quarantine is difficult and outbreaks are ongoing.

The updated plan for additional shipments of AZ/SII vaccine will be released in the coming days.

Updated information on who should get a COVID-19 vaccine can be found [here](#) and there is more information about vaccine after care [here](#). More information and immunization data is available through this page: [BCCDC](#).

### VCH's implementation of Phase 2 of B.C.'s Immunization – a reminder

Starting at noon, Monday, Mar. 15, Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) invites seniors in Richmond, Vancouver, North Vancouver and West Vancouver to call **1.877.587.5767** to book their COVID-19 vaccination appointment on specific days this week:

- Monday, Mar. 15: seniors **84 years** of age and older
- Tuesday, Mar. 16: seniors **83 years** of age and older
- Wednesday, Mar. 17: seniors **82 years** of age and older
- Thursday, Mar. 18: seniors **81 years** of age and older
- Friday, Mar. 19: seniors **80 years** of age and older

Indigenous peoples (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) 65 years of age and older, Elders, and seniors 80 years of age and older who live on the Sunshine Coast, or in Powell River, Whistler, Squamish, Pemberton and on Bowen Island should continue to call to book an appointment.

To prepare for your call, please have available a pen and paper, personal health number, full name, date of birth, postal code and phone number. There are enough appointments available for all seniors and there is no rush to call in. Call volumes are lower in the late afternoon and evening. The appointment booking toll-free phone line is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., seven days a week.

VCH is appealing to family members, friends, neighbours and social services agencies to help reach eligible seniors in the community. Please share this COVID-19 vaccination update with eligible seniors and Indigenous peoples along with Elders, to help them plan and book their appointment.

#### The resource toolkit includes:

- **Information Poster:**

[\[English\]](#) | [\[Arabic\]](#) | [\[ASL\]](#) | [\[Chinese – Simplified\]](#) | [\[Chinese – Traditional\]](#) | [\[Farsi\]](#) | [\[French\]](#) | [\[Korean\]](#) | [\[Punjabi\]](#) | [\[Spanish\]](#) | [\[Tagalog\]](#) | [\[Vietnamese\]](#)

- **Website Information and FAQ:**

[\[English\]](#) | [\[Arabic\]](#) | [\[ASL\]](#) | [\[Chinese – Simplified\]](#) | [\[Chinese – Traditional\]](#) | [\[Farsi\]](#) | [\[French\]](#) | [\[Korean\]](#) | [\[Punjabi\]](#) | [\[Spanish\]](#) | [\[Tagalog\]](#) | [\[Vietnamese\]](#)

- **After Care Information:**

[\[English + other languages\]](#)

#### Vaccination clinics open

With the majority of seniors and elders in care homes now effectively immunized, yesterday vaccination clinics for seniors and elders in the community opened across Vancouver Coastal Health and the province. These clinics are the start of the immunization program for the general population. Over the coming weeks and months, the clinics will be ramped up quickly to be sure that everybody in B.C. has access to one of our safe and effective vaccines.

Information about COVID-19 vaccination aftercare can be found [here](#).

#### VCH vaccination clinic locations

A reminder that when you book your vaccination appointment, you will be directed to one of the following vaccination clinics. More information on the vaccine rollout and clinics can be found [here](#). And if you would like to share these maps, they can be found [here](#).

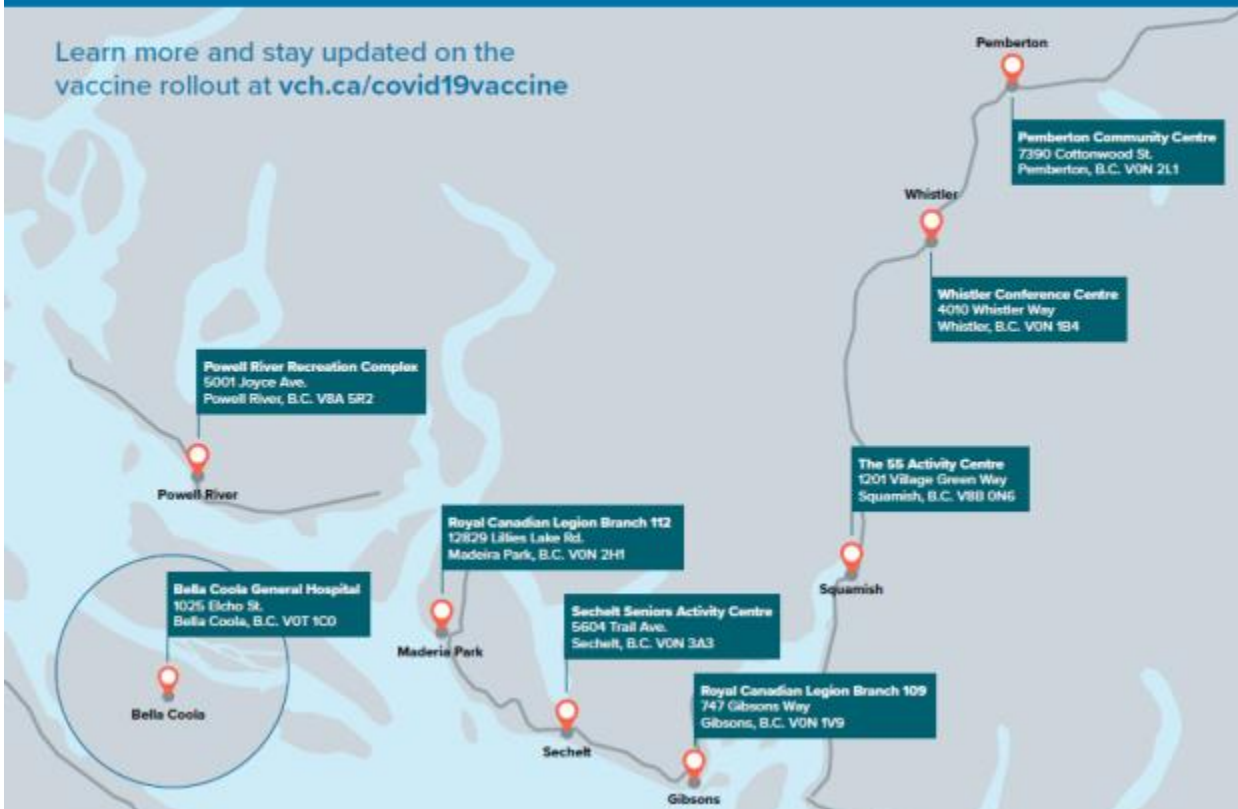
## COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINIC MAP: Vancouver, North Vancouver, West Vancouver & Richmond

Learn more and stay updated on the vaccine rollout at [vch.ca/covid19vaccine](http://vch.ca/covid19vaccine)



## COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINIC MAP: Sea-to-Sky, Sunshine Coast and Central Coast

Learn more and stay updated on the vaccine rollout at [vch.ca/covid19vaccine](http://vch.ca/covid19vaccine)



### Testing

Anyone in the VCH region with cold, influenza or COVID-19-like symptoms, however mild, can now be assessed for and get a COVID-19 test. Contact your physician or nurse practitioner's office, or a local community collection centre to arrange for a test. Phone numbers and locations of collection centres can be found by visiting: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing> or by calling 8-1-1. For more

information and latest updates on COVID-19, follow the BC Centre for Disease Control on Twitter @CDCofBC or visit the website: <http://www.bccdc.ca/>.

#### **Other resources**

To find the Provincial Health Officer's orders, visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

To see a map of **COVID-19 cases by local health area**, visit: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data>

For a listing of the **community exposure events**, go to: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/public-exposures>

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

For **community engagement opportunities** at VCH, see: <http://cean.vch.ca/members/current-opportunities/>