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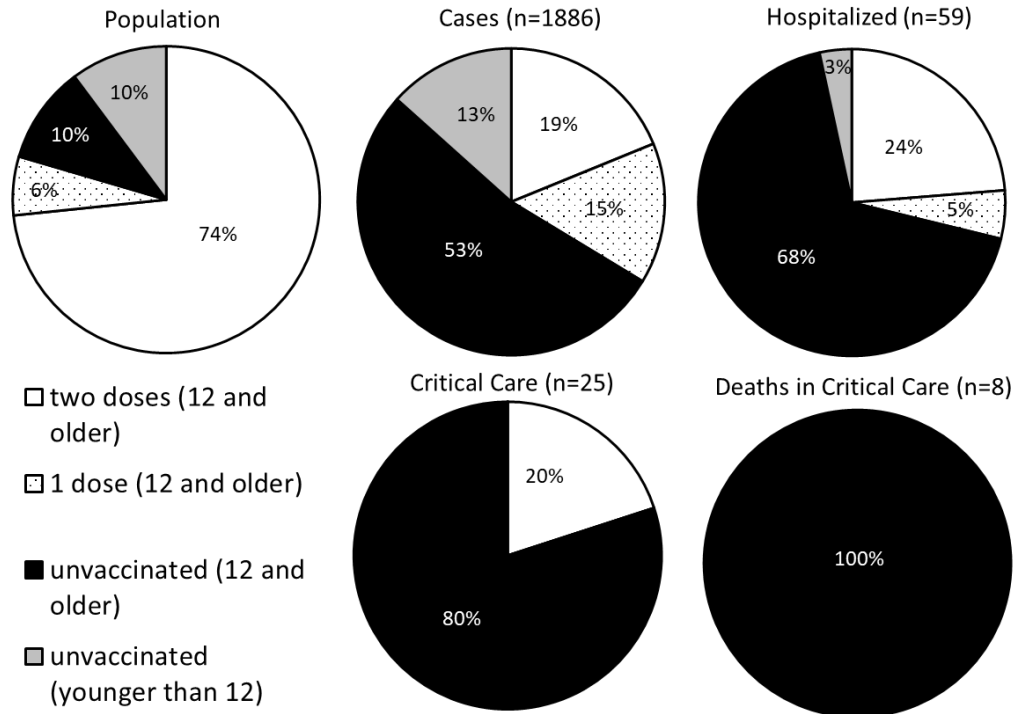
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**MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICERS’
NEWSLETTER
No. 335**

September 22, 2021

COVID-19 Update #18

- 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:



- 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/3tYjloI.
- 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: bit.ly/3j4cOFj
 - BCCDC toolkit for health professionals: bit.ly/382A1Bl