



Office of the Chief Medical Health Officer

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January 6, 2021

COVID-19 Update #11

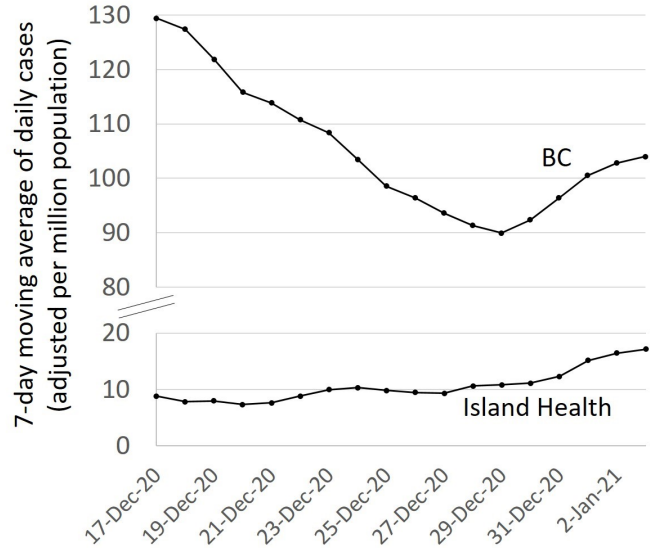
Situational assessment:

- COVID-19 daily incidence in Island Health has been increasing in January compared to December. The 7-day moving average of daily cases was 6-10 in the latter half of December, and has been 13-15 a day so far in January.

- 7-day lab testing percent positivity has increased to 2.5%, which is correlated with a ~50% decrease in lab testing since the beginning of December. Over the past week, >95% of those calling into the Call

Centre receive a call back within 20 minutes and are tested within 24h. 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.

- During December, 13 Island Health cases were admitted to hospital (4.5% of all cases identified during the month). Of these, 2 were admitted to ICU. 5 deaths occurred in December, 4 of which were linked to the outbreak at Saanich Peninsula Hospital.
- 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 daily 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/ihm.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. There is no current concern for sustained community transmission anywhere within Island Health.
- Currently, there is one active outbreak in a care facility: Chartwell Malaspina Care Residence (long-term care in Nanaimo).





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**MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICERS'
NEWSLETTER
No. 324**

January 5, 2021

COVID-19 Update #11

Updates:

- BCCDC testing guidance has been updated, available at bccdc.ca/Health-Professionals-Site/Documents/BCCDC_PHL_Updated_nCoV_Lab_Guidance.pdf
 - General guidance for people who are not known to be a close contact to a case:
 - Test if any ONE is present:
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough (new or worsening of chronic)
 - Loss of sense of smell or taste
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Test if any TWO or more persist after 24h:
 - Sore throat
 - Loss of appetite
 - Extreme fatigue or tiredness
 - Headache
 - Body aches
 - Nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
 - Consider a lower testing threshold for symptomatic individuals who are at higher risk of severe disease and/or higher risk of spreading to others, including residents and staff of long-term care facilities, and those admitted to hospital (full list at link)
 - An evidence summary regarding this update is available at bccdc.ca/Health-Professionals-Site/Documents/Summary_evidence_COVID-19_testing_guidance.pdf
 - COVID-19 vaccination is underway, with currently long-term care staff and physicians eligible to book appointments. If you are a long-term care provider and have not received an email link to the intake form, email COVIDVaccine@viha.ca.
 - Vaccination for long-term care residents will begin January 13. All residents will need an order from their physician/NP to be vaccinated. Pre-printed orders are being sent - please return these to the requesting LTC facility asap.
 - Information on vaccine safety, efficacy, prioritization, and distribution will be updated at:
 - medicalstaff.islandhealth.ca/covid-19/vaccine
 - gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/vaccines
- 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: updated when a new case is reported, also lists exposures (including schools) of COVID-19 within Island Health and outbreaks (currently only Chartwell Malaspina LTC)
 - BCCDC: bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data: all of BC and by Health Authority, Health Service Delivery Area, and Local Health Area, also includes weekly in-depth situation reports
 - Provincial restrictions: gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/restrictions