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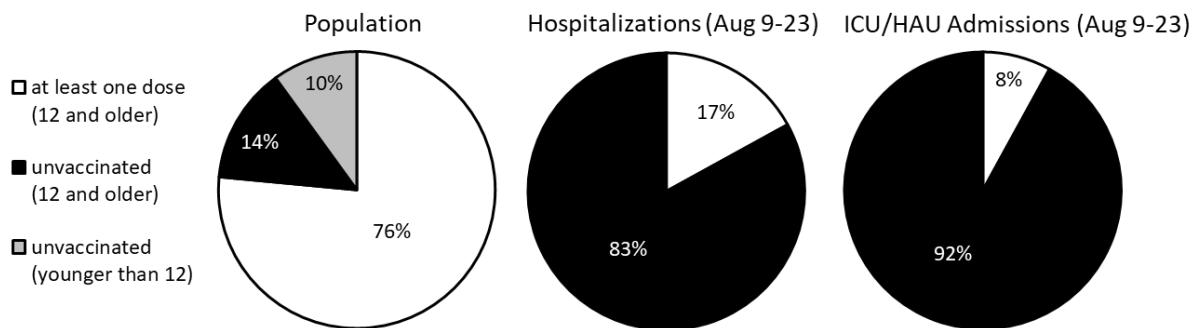
August 24, 2021

COVID-19 Update #17

- The current surge of COVID-19 activity is predominantly fueled by, and harming, unvaccinated adults.
- Please continue to take all opportunities to encourage un/under-vaccinated patients to receive 2 doses of COVID-19 vaccine if eligible.
- Our currently available vaccines are highly protective against the harms of the Delta variant, which now dominates. Breakthrough infections are more likely due to the Delta variant, but severe outcomes are rare - especially after two doses. Compiled estimates for effectiveness of mRNA vaccines against the Delta variant are (from bit.ly/2WkcycF):

	Infection	Hospitalization
1 dose	30 - 65%	87 - 94%
2 dose	42 - 79%	96%

- Those who are vaccinated and those too young to be vaccinated should be reassured that they are at a low-risk of harm from COVID-19. Unvaccinated adults, especially those who are older and those with pre-existing conditions, should be aware that infection with the Delta variant is twice as likely to lead to hospitalization, three times as likely to lead to ICU admission, and twice as likely to be fatal than earlier circulating variants (source: bit.ly/38bnb3L). This is reflected in recent COVID-19 hospitalizations in Island Health:



- The COVID-19 vaccines are no longer 'new'. Over 1.2 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been provided within Island Health over the last 9 months, and ~85% of eligible people (age 12+) have received at least one dose and ~75% have received two doses.
- The only contraindication to vaccination is a severe allergy to a component of the vaccine, which is very rare. Immunology can be referred to as per bit.ly/3dzLTPi.
- 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.
- 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/.
- Resources for patient counselling:
 - Patient-oriented Q+A: immunizebc.ca/covid-19
 - Healthcare provider communication tool: bit.ly/3j4cOFj
 - BCCDC toolkit for health professionals: bit.ly/382A1B1