

Office of the Chief Medical Health Officer

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MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICERS' NEWSLETTER No. 333

June 29, 2021

COVID-19 Update #16

Vaccination Update:

- Over 830,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been provided within Island Health, and over 75% of eligible people (aged 12 and up) have received at least one dose and over 25% have received two doses.
- All immunization clinics now accept walk-ins for first doses; site information can be
 accessed at <u>covid19.islandclinics.ca/</u>. Second doses must be booked through the
 provincial system at gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/register.
- In the UK, two doses of vaccine was found to be highly protective against the Delta variant in reducing the risk of symptomatic disease by 88% and reducing the risk of hospitalization by 94%: go.nature.com/3qvDPDM. We recommend booking an appointment to receive the 2nd dose as soon as eligible, with reassurance that the absolute risk within Island Health of acquiring COVID-19 is very low, and one dose provides good protection to all current variants.
- The Moderna and Pfizer mRNA vaccines are effectively interchangeable and are safe to mix; see NACI statement at bit.ly/2U4Rsh1. Clinics are unable to accommodate individual preference.
- Close contacts to a COVID-19 case who are fully vaccinated are not required to selfquarantine, unless otherwise directed by public health. See updated BCCDC case and contact management guidance at bit.ly/3hawdSL.
- Myocarditis/pericarditis following mRNA vaccination is being monitored provincially
 (bit.ly/3xiFhvB) and federally (health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/vaccine-safety/). In the
 US a higher rate is being seen in 12-39 year olds at 1 in 80,000 dose 2 recipients, and more
 commonly in young males. Most cases are mild and self-limiting. We may expect to see 3 4 cases if all 12-39 year olds receive two doses of mRNA vaccine. For more information
 from the BCCDC see bit.ly/3Ac9239.
- PHAC is monitoring cases of capillary leak syndrome and Guillain-Barré Syndrome following AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccination, see health-infobase.canada.ca/covid-19/vaccine-safety/
- Refer to previous newsletter on guidance on adverse events following immunization (AEFI): bit.ly/3tDlPsd. A 1-page reporting form is available at bit.ly/2Ta8JFe.

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
 - BCCDC: <u>bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data</u>
- BC's Restart: gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restart



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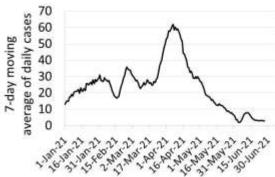
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Situational assessment:

 COVID-19 daily incidence in Island Health has remained very low in June, across the entire region. Current 7-day moving average of daily cases is 3, which was last seen in Fall 2020.



- 7-day lab testing percent positivity remains very low at 0.8%. Almost all calling into the Call Centre are tested the day of or day after. 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.
- So far in June, 6 cases were hospitalized (5% of all June cases), and there were no deaths.
- 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 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.
- Currently, there are no active outbreaks in facilities. The most recent outbreak in longterm care or assisted living was declared over May 5, and the most recent hospital outbreak was declared over April 28.
- Canada's COVID-19 goal is "to minimize serious illness and overall deaths while minimizing societal disruption as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic" (see bit.ly/3hknqhl). As restrictions are eased, the incidence of COVID-19 may increase. With the majority of the population vaccinated with one dose and those at higher risk of exposure and/or severe illness vaccinated with two doses, the risk of outbreaks, serious illness, and death will be reduced. As the vaccine roll-out continues risks will continue to decrease and all providers can support by encouraging immunization.