



Office of the Chief Medical Health Officer

NORTH ISLAND 250.331.8591

Charmaine Enns MD MHSc FRCPC 355-11th Street Courtenay, BC V9N 1S4

CENTRAL ISLAND 250.739.6304

Sandra Allison MD MPH CCFP FCFP FRCPC

Mike Benusic MD MPH FRCPC

3rd Floor, 6475 Metral Drive Nanaimo, BC V9T 2L9

COWICHAN AREA 250.737.2020

Shannon Waters MD MHSc FRCPC 4th floor 238 Government St Duncan, BC V9L 1A5

SOUTH ISLAND 250.519.3406

Richard Stanwick, CMHO MD MSc FRCPC FAAP

Murray Fyfe MD MSc FRCPC

Dee Hoyano MD FRCPC CCFP

1837 Fort Street Victoria, BC V8R 1J6

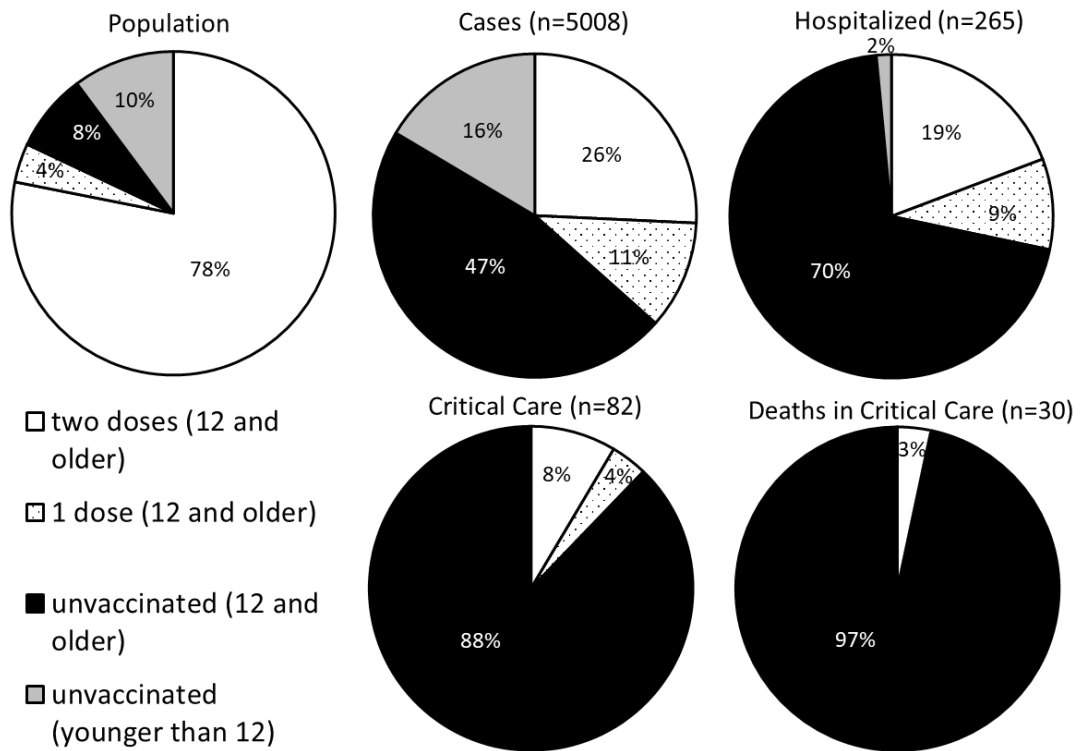
After Hours On Call 1.800.204.6166

MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICERS' NEWSLETTER No. 336

November 4, 2021

COVID-19 Update #19

- A provincial COVID-19 booster dose roll-out has started, with details at bit.ly/3GSqWeA. While there is evidence for decreased protection from acquiring COVID-19 with time since vaccination, protection against severe disease remains extremely high. Patients should be reassured that they are highly protected against harm from COVID-19 if they have completed a primary series, ensure they are registered in the provincial system (getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca), and wait until they are invited to book for a booster dose. There is no process for expediting booster doses.
Those who are unvaccinated continue to make up a disproportionately high number of cases, the majority of hospitalizations, and the vast majority of critical care admissions:
Island Health population and COVID-19 cases by vaccine status, 1 August - 23 Oct 2021



- The most important intervention against COVID-19 remains the first dose of vaccine. Please continue to work with your vaccine-hesitant patients with supporting resources:
- Patient-oriented Q+A: immunizebc.ca/covid-19
- Healthcare provider communication tool: bit.ly/3j4cOFj
- BCCDC toolkit for health professionals: bit.ly/382A1BI
Contraindications to COVID-19 vaccination are extremely rare. Guidance on exemption requests can be found at bit.ly/3Ezpool. Healthcare workers seeking exemptions must submit requests themselves to the Provincial Health Officer as per bit.ly/31vzlza.
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.