



**Office of the
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**MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICERS'
NEWSLETTER**
No. 329

March 30, 2021

COVID-19 Update #13

Updates:

Vaccination

- More than 125,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been provided within Island Health, and 15% of the adult population have been vaccinated.
- The provincial schedule continues to be expedited, accessible at bit.ly/365whhR.
- Physicians can express interest in vaccinating by completing the form here: medicalstaff.islandhealth.ca/covid-19-vaccine-immunizers.
- Under recommendation of NACI, the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine has been paused in BC for those under 55 due to rare events of vaccine-induced prothrombotic immune thrombocytopenia (VIPIT). The occurrence of this has been reported to be 1-10 in 1,000,000 people vaccinated. 430 doses of AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD have been provided within Island Health. More information can be found at bit.ly/3daD908.

Variants of Concern

- Variants of concern are specific SARS-CoV-2 variants that are flagged as being potentially more transmissible, virulent, and/or less likely to be protected against by current vaccines.
- A summary of these variants from the BCCDC can be found at bit.ly/2QTGSYR.
- All COVID-19 cases identified are screened within Island Health labs for the common mutation of the three main variants of concern. Case and contact management teams follow specific guidance for management of variant of concern cases and contacts. Confirmatory testing is performed by BCCDC.
- Currently, variants of concern make up a small minority of cases identified within Island Health. However, the proportion of cases due to variants of concern is rising within Island Health and throughout BC, much of Canada, and globally.

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: 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-rec-overly/covid-19-provincial-support/res-trictions
 - *New as of March 29: no indoor dining, no indoor group exercise, closure of Whistler Blackcomb, suspension of indoor religious gatherings and worship*



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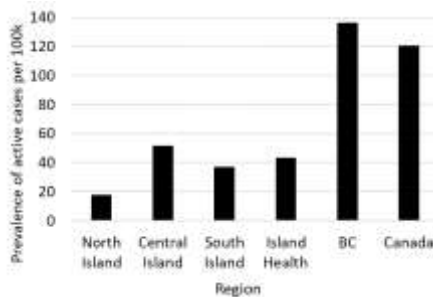
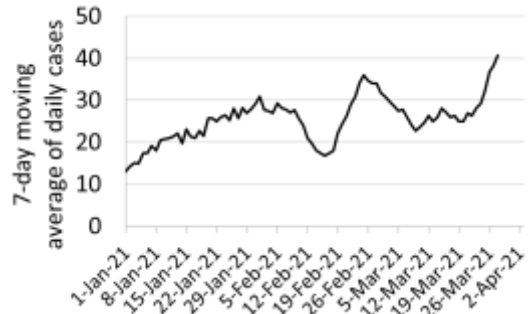
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Situational assessment:

- COVID-19 daily incidence in Island Health has fluctuated over February and March, with a steep incline over the past week...
COVID-19 activity has increased substantially in South Island, particularly in Victoria.



Activity remains relatively high in Central Island and relatively low in North Island. Local Health Area level data can be accessed at bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data.

- 7-day lab testing percent positivity has increased to 5.4% - the highest seen during the pandemic. Almost all calling into the Call Centre are tested the day of or day after...
While the incidence of COVID-19 is rising, the proportion hospitalized has decreased...
COVID-19 cases continue to be contacted well within 24h of notification...
The majority of cases in Island Health continue to have an identified source of infection...
Currently, there are no active outbreaks in hospitals, long-term care, or assisted living sites.