



## LATEST UPDATE – March 9, 2021

In an effort to keep our community partners connected, we are providing you with regular COVID-19 updates.

### VCH opens COVID-19 vaccination clinics to Bella Coola residents

All residents of the Bella Coola Valley who are 18 years of age and older can book their free COVID-19 vaccination appointments by phone for appointments beginning on March 10.

First doses of COVID-19 vaccine will be available by appointment only from March 10 to 12 and March 15 to 19 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Bella Coola General Hospital, located at 1025 Elcho Street.

People living in the Bella Coola Valley can book their appointments now by calling **250-799-5342**. The booking line is open 9 a.m. - noon, and 1 - 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday.

Date	Times	Location	How to book
March 10 – 12	9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Bella Coola General Hospital	Call 250-799-5342 to book an appointment
March 15 – 19	9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Bella Coola General Hospital	Call 250-799-5342 to book an appointment

Before calling the phone line, residents are asked to have their personal health number, full name and date of birth ready.

For more information on the clinics, visit [vch.ca/BellaCoolaVaccine](http://vch.ca/BellaCoolaVaccine) or for general questions about the COVID-19 vaccine, 1-888-COVID19 (1.888.268.4319) or visit [gov.bc.ca/covid19](http://gov.bc.ca/covid19).

### Ministry of Health update

In today's joint statement on B.C.'s COVID-19 response, Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, reported 550 new cases.

The total number of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in B.C. now stands at 85,119 since the start of the pandemic. Of the new cases, 133 people were in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region.

Across the province, there were two new COVID-19 related deaths during the past three days, while 249 people are currently hospitalized, with 68 of these cases receiving treatment in

ICU/critical care. The total number of individuals who have passed away due to COVID-19 is 1,393. There are now 4,869 active cases of COVID-19 across B.C. currently.

There have been 182 new confirmed COVID-19 cases that are variants of concern in our province, for a total of 576 cases. Of the total cases, 113 are active and the remaining people have recovered. This includes 530 cases of the B.1.1.7 (U.K.) variant, 33 cases of the B.1.351 (South Africa) variant and 13 cases of the P.1 (Brazil) variant.

Dr. Henry sounded a note of optimism saying she will look at reducing restrictions over the next few weeks. She said with our immunization program ramping up and our days soon getting warmer, we can start to look at a modified return of some of the activities that have been on pause. We know that a thoughtful, careful approach is required, which means we need to think of resuming activities as slowly turning a dial, instead of flicking a switch.

Dr. Henry is considering allowing small social gatherings, including youth sports and kid's camps. She is looking at opening in-person faith activities in the coming weeks. And B.C. colleges and universities are preparing for a full return to in-person classes on campus this fall.

### **Vaccination update**

Since the start of immunizations, 343,381 vaccinations have been delivered in B.C. (not including today), with 86,938 of those being a second dose.

Dr. Henry said the first deliveries of the AstraZeneca-Serum Institute of India COVID-19 vaccines will arrive in our province in the next day or two. The vaccine will initially be used to address ongoing clusters and outbreaks in some communities.

Building on this momentum, the federal government approved a fourth COVID-19 vaccine on Friday. The newly approved Johnson & Johnson vaccine is another tool in our immunization program that will help accelerate protection of people throughout our province.

Dr. Henry says now, with every new person who is vaccinated, we can take comfort in knowing with each immunization, we all benefit – Elders, seniors, families and communities. Let's keep moving forward and doing our part to put COVID-19 behind us. More information and immunization data is available through this page: BCCDC.

### **Testing**

Anyone in the VCH region with cold, influenza or COVID-19-like symptoms, however mild, can now be assessed for and get a COVID-19 test. Contact your physician or nurse practitioner's office, or a local community collection centre to arrange for a test. Phone numbers and locations of collection centres can be found by visiting: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing> or by calling 8-1-1. For more information and latest updates on COVID-19, follow the BC Centre for Disease Control on Twitter @CDCofBC or visit the website: <http://www.bccdc.ca/>.

### **Other resources**

To find the Provincial Health Officer's orders, visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

To see a map of **COVID-19 cases by local health area**, visit: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data>

For a listing of the **community exposure events**, go to: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/public-exposures>

For the **latest medical updates**, including case counts, prevention, risks and testing, visit: <http://www.bccdc.ca/>

For **community engagement opportunities** at VCH, see: <http://cean.vch.ca/members/current-opportunities/>