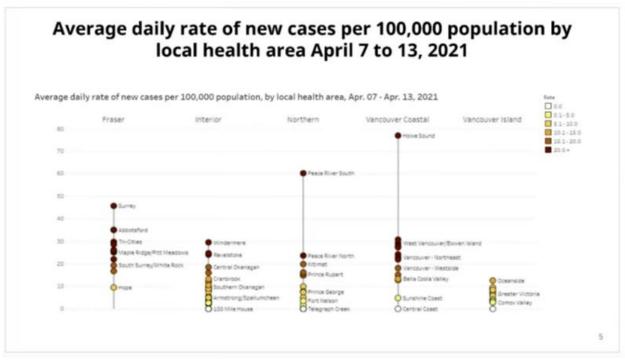


Good afternoon all, Nathan here with this week's Regional COVID-19 update.

Our region has seen a very sharp uptick in cases over the last little while, far greater than at any other point during this pandemic. The Windermere Health Delivery Area has the highest daily rate of new cases per 100,000 in all of Interior Health currently and is on par with Tri-Cities (Fraser Health) and above Vancouver, Maple Ridge and South Surrey. We cannot step back on our vigilance now, we have done so well for so long, it would be a shame to have it all for nought.



#### **Vaccine Booking Schedule**

Vaccine call centres are open between 8:00am and 8:00pm MDT. You can book a vaccine appointment for yourself when you are eligible to call, in many cases (not all) your spouse may also be eligible for the vaccine, so make sure to ask. You can also have a family member or friend call for you. It's easy and safe to book over the phone.

#### Register by Phone: 1-833-838-2323 or Register Online Here

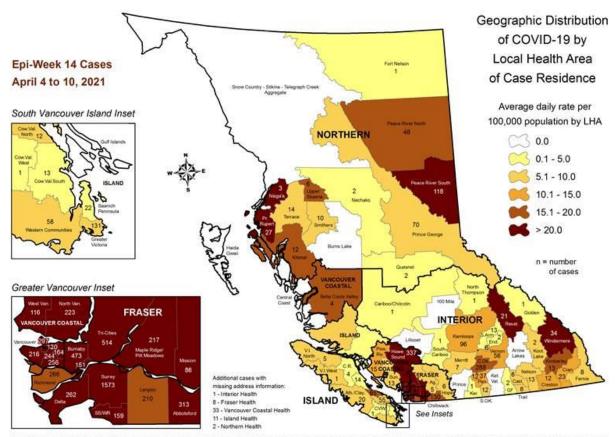
For the most up-to-date information on the Vaccine roll-out please regularly visit the <u>Province's COVID-19 Vaccination and Immunization page</u> as the information is constantly evolving.



## Here are some notes from the Thursday April 15, 2021 Provincial COVID-19 update:

- 1,205 new cases of COVID-19 in BC (69 in Interior Health).
- Cases by Local Health Area. COVID-19 cases for the most recent 7-day period (Sunday April 4 to Saturday April 10). The map is updated weekly, on Wednesdays. Fernie Health Delivery Area = 8, Cranbrook Health Delivery Area = 23, Kimberley Health Delivery Area = 13 and Windermere (Columbia Valley) Health Delivery Area = 34.
- There have been 3 new COVID-19 deaths in the province with a total of 1,524 COVID-19 deaths in the province since the beginning of the pandemic.
- A total of 116,075 cases since the beginning of the pandemic.
- 10,052 active cases of COVID-19 in BC.
- 409 individuals currently hospitalized in BC with COVID-19 with 125 of those in intensive care. For Health Authority specific stats visit the <a href="Mailto:BCCDC COVID dashboard">BCCDC COVID dashboard</a>.
- 104,331 people who tested positive have recovered.
- 1,235,863 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in BC, this is spread across all health areas.
- Current Provincial Health Officer Orders regarding social gatherings remains in place. Learn more about these orders here.
- Watch the provincial update <u>here.</u>





Notes: Cases are mapped by location of residence; cases with unknown residence and from out of province are not mapped. Data source: the 5 regional health authorities of British Columbia; we operate in a live database environment and case information from the health authorities are updated as it becomes available. How to interpret the maps: The map illustrates the geographic distribution of reported cases for the most scene rejetimological week (from Sunday to Saturday). Local Health Areas (LHA) with higher rates are illustrated in darker colour shading. The number of reported cases appears in each LHA. Note that the number of cases in the LHA may not represent the bocation of exposure (e.g. people who acquired disease while traveling or working elsewhere), and that not all COVID-19 infected individuals are tested and reported; the virus may be circulating undetected in the community, including in areas where no cases have been identified by public health. Malor portable (APP) and the community of the community including in areas where no cases have been identified by public health. Malor portable (APP) and the community including in areas where no cases have been identified by public health. Malor portable (APP) and the community including in areas where no cases have been identified by public health. Malor portable (APP) and the community including in areas where no cases have been identified by public health. Malor portable (APP) and the community including in areas where no cases have been identified by public health. Malor portable (APP) and the community including in areas where no cases have been identified by public health. Malor portable (APP) and the community including in areas where no cases have been identified by public health. Malor portable (APP) and the community including in a live of the number of the community

#### School exposures information

As many of you know, there have a been a few school exposures in our region over the last little bit, so I wanted to share with you how the school exposure notification works. A "school exposure notification" does not mean all students at the school have been exposed to COVID-19. If you do not receive a phone call or letter from Interior Health (IH), your child should continue to attend school. It is imperative that you monitor your child for COVID-19 symptoms daily. If a student or teacher receives a confirmed positive COVID-19 test result, IH will start contact tracing to determine how the person was infected and who they were in close contact with. Then IH will identify and notify close contacts who may be at an increased risk and advise them to self isolate and monitor for symptoms for 14 days. Finally IH will work closely with the school and school district throughout the case and contact tracing process to maintain close communication with the school community.

IH public health determines close contacts of individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 using specific criteria, based on likelihood of transmission.



Small and medium sized business recovery grant

The Small and Medium Sized Business Recovery Grant program provides fully funded grants to businesses to ensure they have the support they need during and beyond COVID-19. Learn more <a href="here">here</a>.

New mental health resources for sectors hit hard by pandemic.

Employers and employees throughout B.C. who work in the tourism, hospitality and community social services sectors now have access to vital mental health resources with the creation of a digital resource hub. The online hub offers a range of tools to help address common workplace concerns, such as bullying, harassment, COVID-19 exposure, coping with stress and more. Learn more here.

### BC COVID-19 Support App

If you have not already checked out the BC COVID-19 Support App (available for iOS and Android phones), it really is worth a look. It has all the provincial COVID-19 info in one spot, including the daily updates, vaccination info, self-assessment tool, business, and community resources and so much more.

Long-Term Care, Assisted Living & Independent Living Outbreaks updates
The BCCDC is posting weekly reports on outbreak and case information in Long-Term Care, Assisted Living & Independent Living Facilities. These can be viewed here.

For the most accurate and up to date info on the COVID-19 pandemic please visit:

- BC Centre for Disease Control's COVID-19 Data
- COVID-19 Vaccine Information
- BCCDC COVID-19 Dashboard
- <u>Interior Health School Exposures</u>
- Provincial Health Officer's orders, notices, and guidance
- Provincial response to the COVID-19 pandemic

#### Booking a COVID-19 test:

<u>Online</u>: You can book an appointment online through the COVID-19 Test Booking Form:

https://interiorhealthcovid.secureform.ca/index.php

By phone: Call the COVID-19 Test Booking Line at 1-877-740-7747 for assistance with booking your test.

Seek a test if you have two or more of the following symptoms for more than 24 hours, and they are not related to any other pre-existing conditions:

- Sore throat
- Loss of appetite
- Extreme fatigue or tiredness
- Headache



- Body aches (muscles and joints aching)
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

If you suspect that you or a loved one may have symptoms of COVID-19, please visit:

- <u>COVID-19 Self-assessment tool</u>
- <u>BCCDC testing information</u>

Thanks for your time. Stay safe and play smart. Nathan.

Nathan Siemens Communications Coordinator Regional District of East Kootenay 250-489-2791