

British Columbia (BC) COVID-19 Situation Report
Week 35: August 29- September 04, 2021

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Test rates and % positive	4	Starting in week 32, age-specific incidences decreased or stabilized across all age groups, except for the 80+-year-olds which have increased since week 27 (0.4 per 100K) to 43 per 100K in week 35. Most notably, the 10-14 year-olds saw a decrease from 115 per 100K in week 34 to 82 per 100K in week 35, after multiple weeks of increases.	
Age profile, testing and cases	5	By week 35, the single-dose vaccination coverage in the eligible 12+ year-olds reached 85% and 77% were fully vaccinated.	
Severe outcomes	8	Testing of MSP-funded specimens stabilized at ~53K specimens in weeks 34 and 35. Positivity of MSP-funded specimens has been stable at ~9% since week 32.	
Age profile, severe outcomes	9	The weekly number of hospital admissions has been increasing since week 28, from 16 to 251 admissions in week 35. ICU admissions have also been increasing since week 28, from 1 to 82 admissions in week 35. Deaths have been relatively stable with 17 deaths in week 33 and 21 deaths in week 35.	
Care facility outbreaks	10	By case of earliest onset date, no new outbreaks were reported in care settings in week 35.	
Additional resources	10		

Table of [pandemic phases](#) defined by implementation or relaxation of population-level mitigation measures in BC:

PRE-PHASE 1 Jan 15 (wk 3) - Mar 13 (wk 11) 2020	PHASE 1 Mar 14 (wk 11) - May 18 (wk 21) 2020	PHASE 2 May 19 (wk 21) - Jun 23 (wk 26) 2020	PHASE 3 Jun 24 2020 (wk 26) - Current wk, 2021 (DATES START FROM BEGINNING OF COMPLETE EPIWEEK)
From earliest symptom onset date	Initial restrictions	Re-opening of services	PHASE 3A: Jun 24 (wk 26)-Sept 12 (wk 37) 2020: Broader re-opening PHASE 3B: Sept 13 (wk 38)-Nov 7 (wk 45) 2020: Start of 2020-21 school year PHASE 3C: Nov 8 (wk 46)-Mar 27 (wk 12) 2021: Core bubble interaction only PHASE 3D: Mar 28 (wk 13)-May 22 (wk 20) 2021: Circuit breaker restrictions PHASE 3E: May 23 (wk 21)- Current wk, 2021: Step 1 BC Restart Plan (wk 21-23); Step 2 BC Restart Plan (wk 24-25); Step 3 BC Restart Plan (wk 26- current wk, 2021)

Table of [vaccination phases](#) defined by vaccine eligibility of target populations in BC:

VACCINATION PHASE 1 Dec 2020 to Feb 2021	VACCINATION PHASE 2 Feb to April 2021	VACCINATION PHASE 3 April to May 2021	VACCINATION PHASE 4 May 2021- Present
Target populations include residents, staff and essential visitors to long-term care settings; individuals assessed and awaiting a long-term care placement; health care workers providing care for COVID-19 patients; and remote and isolated Indigenous communities.	Target populations include seniors, age ≥80; Indigenous peoples age ≥65 and Indigenous Elders; Indigenous communities; hospital staff, community general practitioners and medical specialists; vulnerable populations in select congregate settings; and staff in community home support and nursing services for seniors.	Target populations include people aged 60-79 years, Indigenous peoples aged 18-64 and people aged 16-74 who are clinically extremely vulnerable.	Target populations include everyone 12+ years.

BELOW ARE IMPORTANT NOTES relevant to the interpretation of data displayed in this bulletin:

- Episode dates are defined by dates of illness onset. When those dates are unavailable, earliest laboratory date is used (collection or result date); if also unavailable, then public health care report date is used. Analyses based on episode date (or illness onset date) may better represent the timing of epidemic evolution. Episode-based tallies for recent weeks are expected to increase as case data, in particular onset dates, are more complete.
- The weekly tally by surveillance date (result date, if unavailable then report date) includes cases with illness onset date in preceding weeks. Episode dates for hospital admission, ICU, and death are defined by admission and death dates. When unavailable, surveillance date is used.
- As of June 15, 2021, per capita rates/incidences for year 2020 are based on Population Estimates 2020 (n= 5,139,568 for BC overall) and for year 2021 are based on PEOPLE 2020 estimates (n= 5,197,224 for BC overall).
- Laboratory data include Medical Service Plan (MSP) funded (e.g. clinical diagnostic tests) and non-MSP funded (e.g. screening tests) specimens.
- Data sources include: health authority case line list data, laboratory PLOVER data, PHSA Provincial Immunization Registry (PIR), and hospital data (PHSA Provincial COVID19 Monitoring Solution (PCMS)).
- Case data were extracted on September 12, 2021, laboratory data on September 10, 2021, PIR vaccine coverage date on September 10, 2021, and PCMS hospitalization data on September 12, 2021.

A. COVID-19 case counts and epidemic curves

Up to week 35, 2021, there have been 171,123 cases for a cumulative incidence of 3,289 per 100K (Table 1, Figure 1). The provincial incidence by episode date was 79 per 100K in week 35, slightly lower than in week 34 when we saw 89 per 100K. As shown by the higher incidence using surveillance date, incidence by episode date will likely increase as data become more complete for recent weeks.

As shown in Figure 2, incidence varied by Health Authority from weeks 34 to 35. Northern Health (NH) increased from 105 to 169 per 100K, Fraser Health (FH) was stable from 68 to 69 per 100K and the following Health Authority (HAs) incidence decreased: Island Health (VIHA) decreased from 49 to 42 per 100K, Interior Health (IH) from 206 to 159 per 100K and Vancouver Coastal (VCH) from 69 to 47 per 100K. Rates may increase as data become more complete. Incidence increased mainly in the Northeast, Northern Interior and Central Vancouver Island Health Service Delivery Areas.

Table 1. Episode-based case tallies by health authority, BC, Jan 15, 2020 – September 04, 2021 (week 35) (N= 171,175)

Case tallies by episode date	Health Authority of Residence					Outside Canada	Total
	FH	IH	VIHA	NH	VCH		
Week 35, case counts	1,350	1,334	367	489	579	4	4,123
Cumulative case counts	92,160	23,290	6,937	9,297	39,253	238	171,175
Week 35, cases per 100K population	69	159	42	169	47	NA	79
Cumulative cases per 100K population	4,684	2,771	793	3,213	3,205	NA	3,289

Figure 1. Episode-based epidemic curve (bars), surveillance date (line) and health authority (HA), BC January 15, 2020 (week 3) – September 04, 2021 (week 35) (N= 171,175)

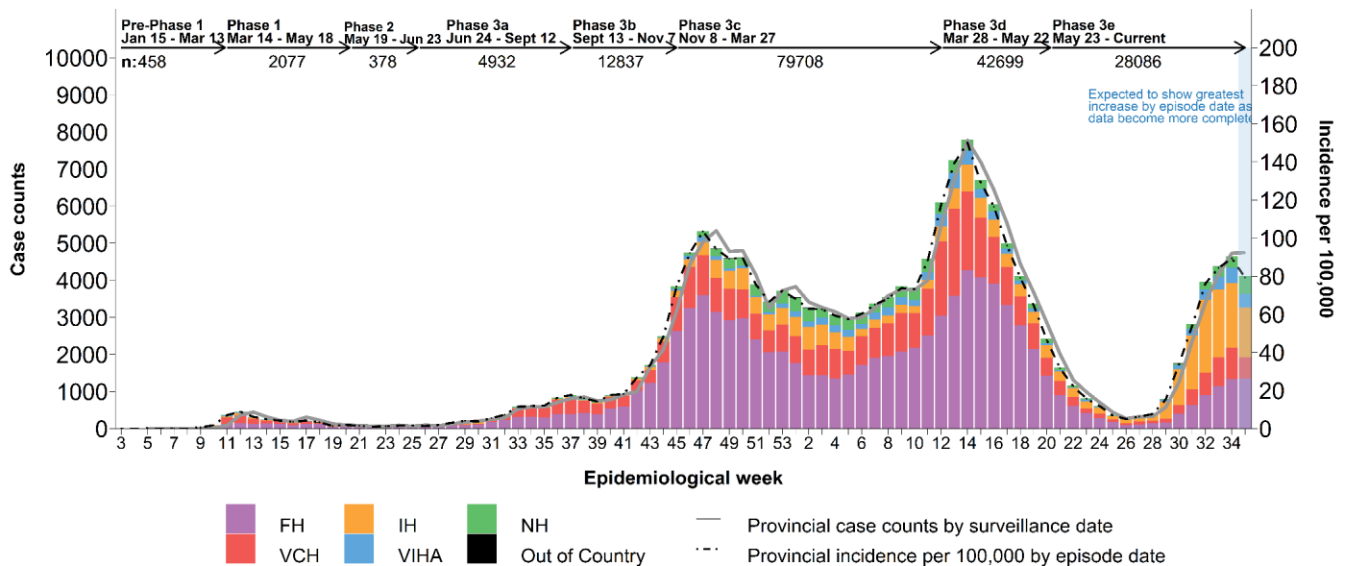
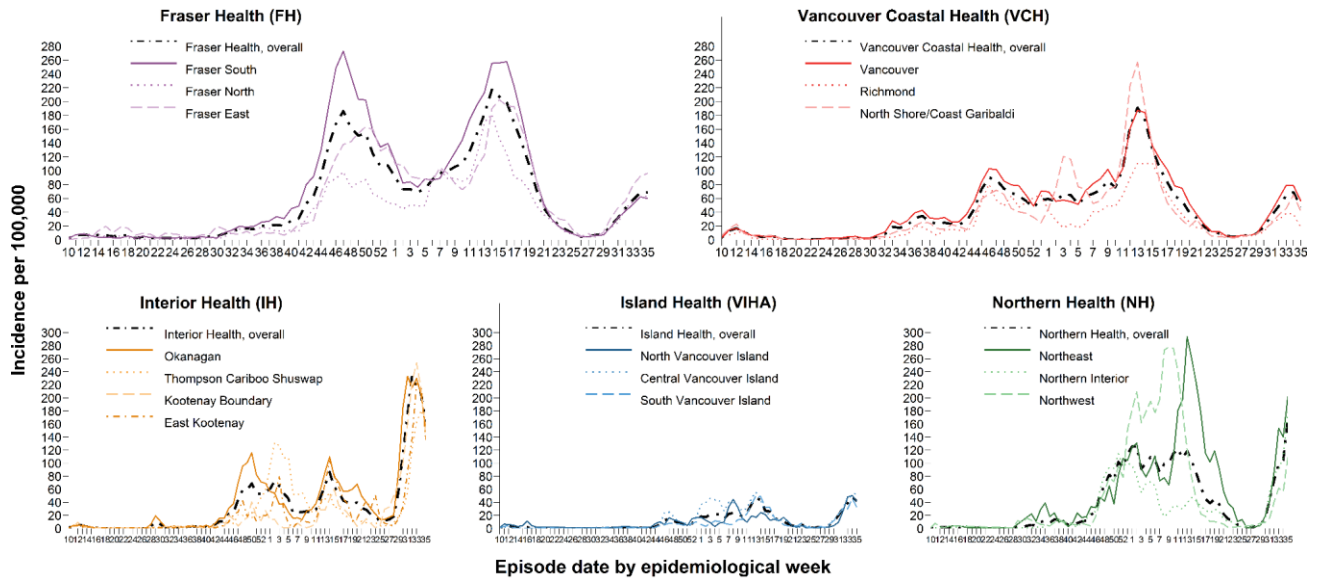


Figure 2. Weekly episode-based incidence rates by HA and health service delivery area (HSDA), BC March 01, 2020 (week 10) – September 04, 2021 (week 35) (N= 171,175)



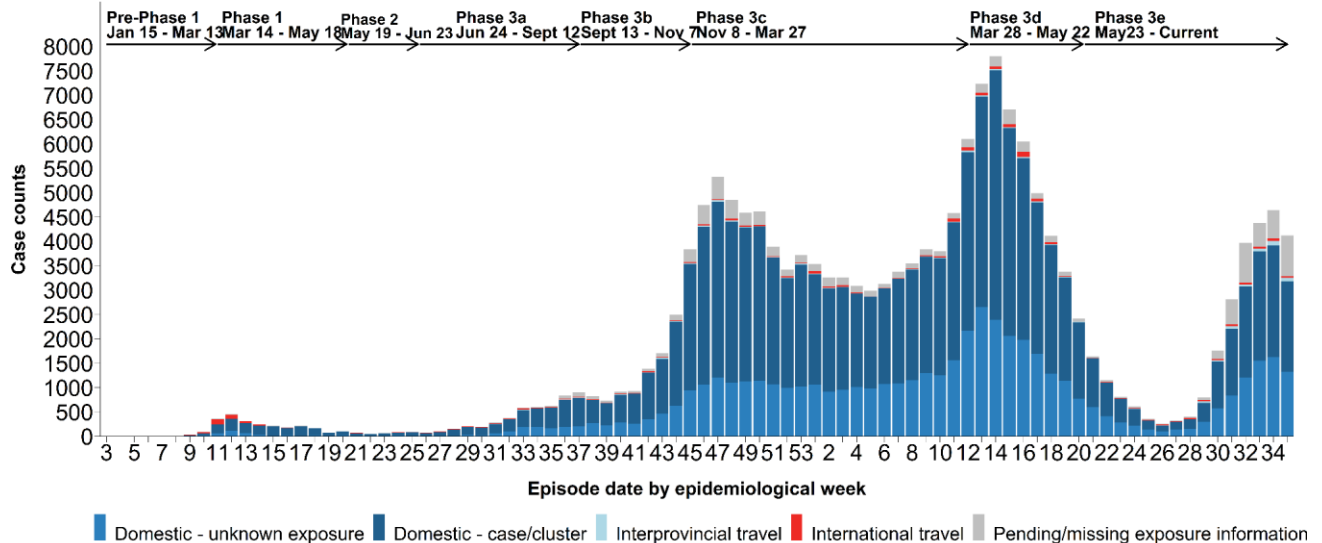
B. Likely sources of infection

As shown in [Table 2](#) and [Figure 3](#), domestic contact with a known case or cluster has been the most commonly reported source of infection across the pandemic to date.

Table 2. Likely source of COVID-19 infection by episode date, BC January 15, 2020 (week 3) – September 04, 2021 (week 35) (N= 171,175)

Likely exposure (row %)	International travel	Interprovincial travel	Domestic – case/cluster	Domestic – unknown	Pending/missing
Week 35 , Exposures	36 (1)	73 (2)	1,853 (45)	1,329 (32)	832 (20)
Cumulative Exposures	1,926 (1)	1,005 (1)	106,554 (62)	51,897 (30)	9,793 (6)

Figure 3. Likely source of COVID-19 infection by episode date, BC January 15, 2020 (week 3) – September 04, 2021 (week 35) (N= 171,175)



C. Test rates and percent positive

As shown by the darker-colored bars in [Figure 4](#), testing of MSP-funded specimens stabilized at ~53K specimens in weeks 34 and 35. Positivity of MSP-funded specimens has been stable at ~9% since week 32.

As shown in [Figure 5](#), the per capita testing rates (Panel A) have mostly increased or stabilized. In NHA, the testing rate increased from 644 per 100K in week 34 to 817 per 100K in week 35. Testing rates decreased slightly in VCH and IHA, and increased slightly in FHA and VIHA. Percent positivity (Panel B) for MSP-only specimens have mostly stabilized since week 34 in all HAs, with the exception of NHA, which has been increasing since week 33 from 19.3% to 24% in week 35.

Figure 4. Number of specimens tested and percent SARS-CoV-2 positive, by collection week, BC March 15, 2020 (week 12) – September 04, 2021 (week 35)

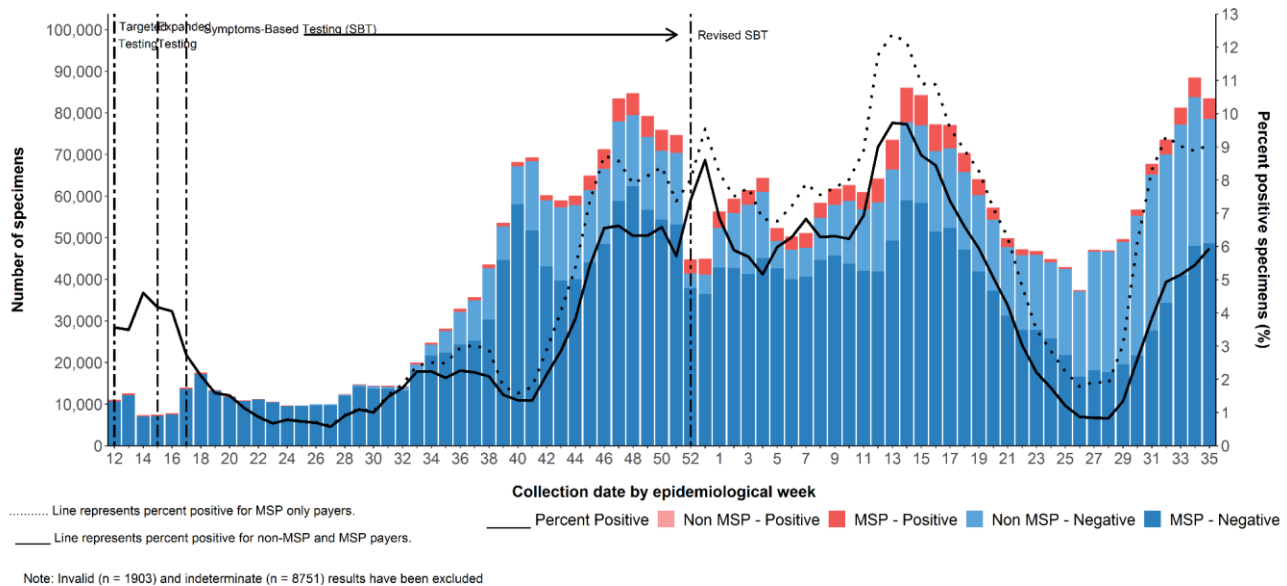
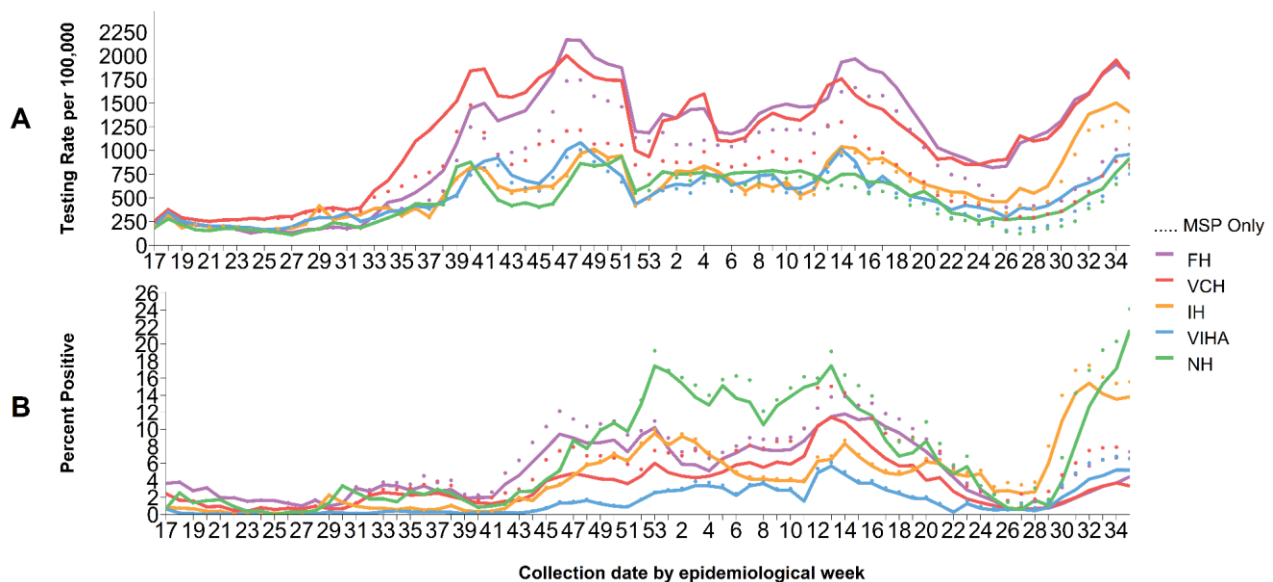


Figure 5. Testing rates and percent SARS-CoV-2 positive by health authority and collection week, BC March 15, 2020 (week 12) – September 04, 2021 (week 35)



Data source: laboratory PLOVER data

D. Age profile – Testing and cases

Testing rates and percent positivity by age group

As shown by the bars in [Figure 6](#), testing rates in all age groups have stabilised since week 34, with the exception of the 0-4 year-olds and 80+ year-olds, which have increased since week 34. In week 35, the highest testing rate continues to be in 20-39 year-olds.

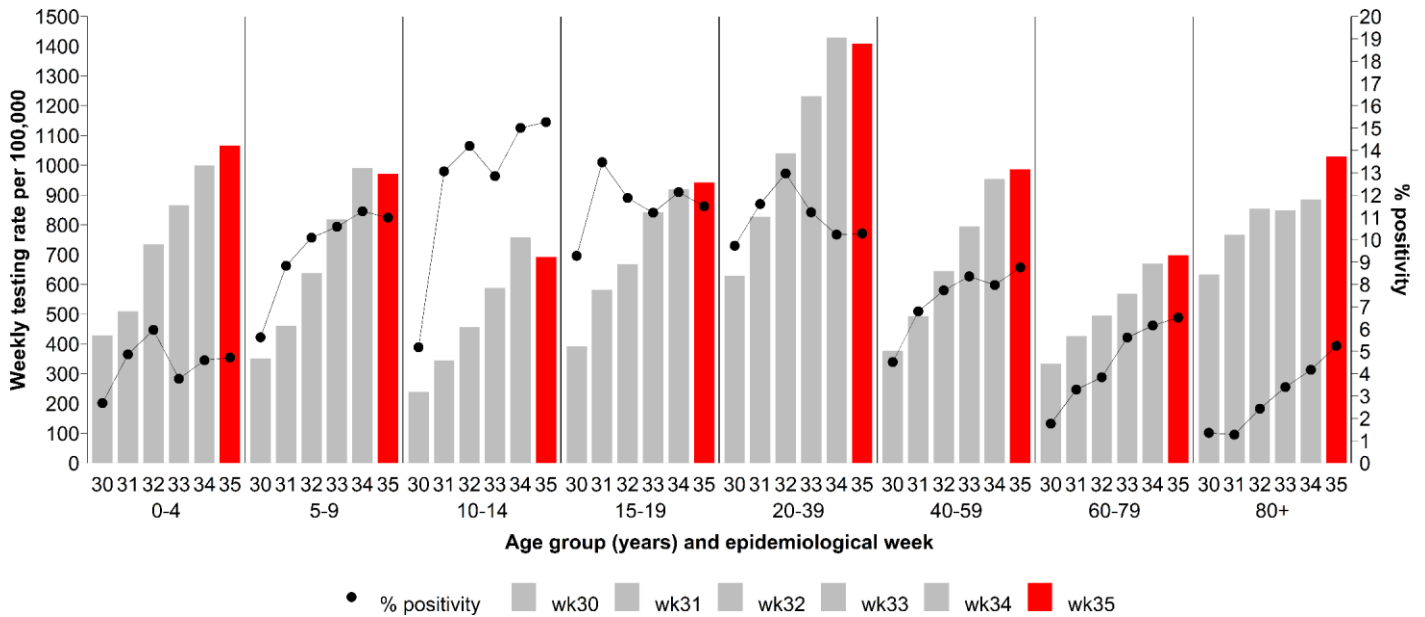
As shown by the black dots in [Figure 6](#), the percent positivity has stabilized in most age groups since week 34, with the exception of 60+ year-olds where it has been increasing in the last 6 weeks. The highest percent positivity has consistently been in the 10-14 year-olds, at 15.2% in week 35.

Case distribution and weekly incidence by age group

As shown in [Figure 7](#), the contribution of adults 40-59 year olds increased by 1.2% and the 10-14 years olds decreased by 1.2% during the same period.

As shown in [Figure 8](#), age-specific incidences have decreased or stabilised starting in week 32 across all age groups, except for the 80+-year-olds which have increased since week 27 (0.4 per 100K) to 43 per 100K in week 35. Most notably, the 10-14 year-olds saw a recent decrease from 115 per 100K in week 34 to 82 per 100K in week 35, after multiple weeks of increases. In week 35, the highest age-specific incidence (135 per 100K) was in 20-29 year-olds followed by the 30-39-year-olds (112 per 100K). The lowest incidence rates were in the 70-79 year-olds at 31 per 100K. Age-specific incidences may increase as data become more complete.

Figure 6. Average weekly SARS-CoV-2 MSP testing rates and MSP percent positive by known age group, BC January 20, 2020 (week 4) – September 04, 2021 (week 35)



Data source: laboratory PLOVER data

Figure 7. COVID-19 case distribution by known age group (years) and episode date, BC March 15, 2020 (week 12) – September 04, 2021 (week 35) (N= 170,637)

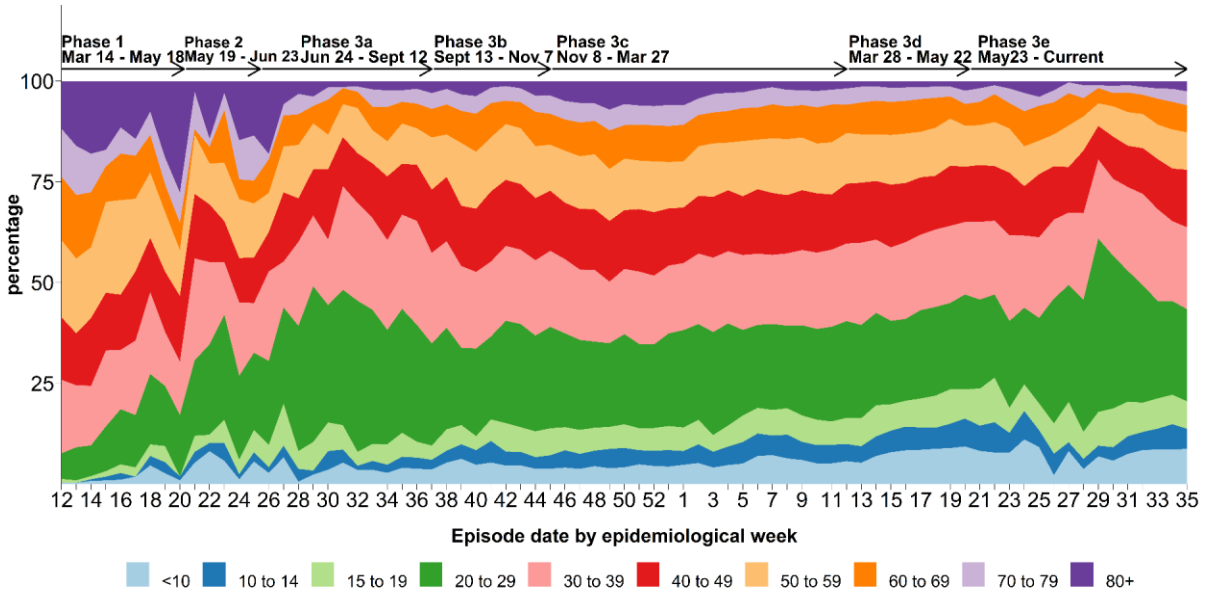
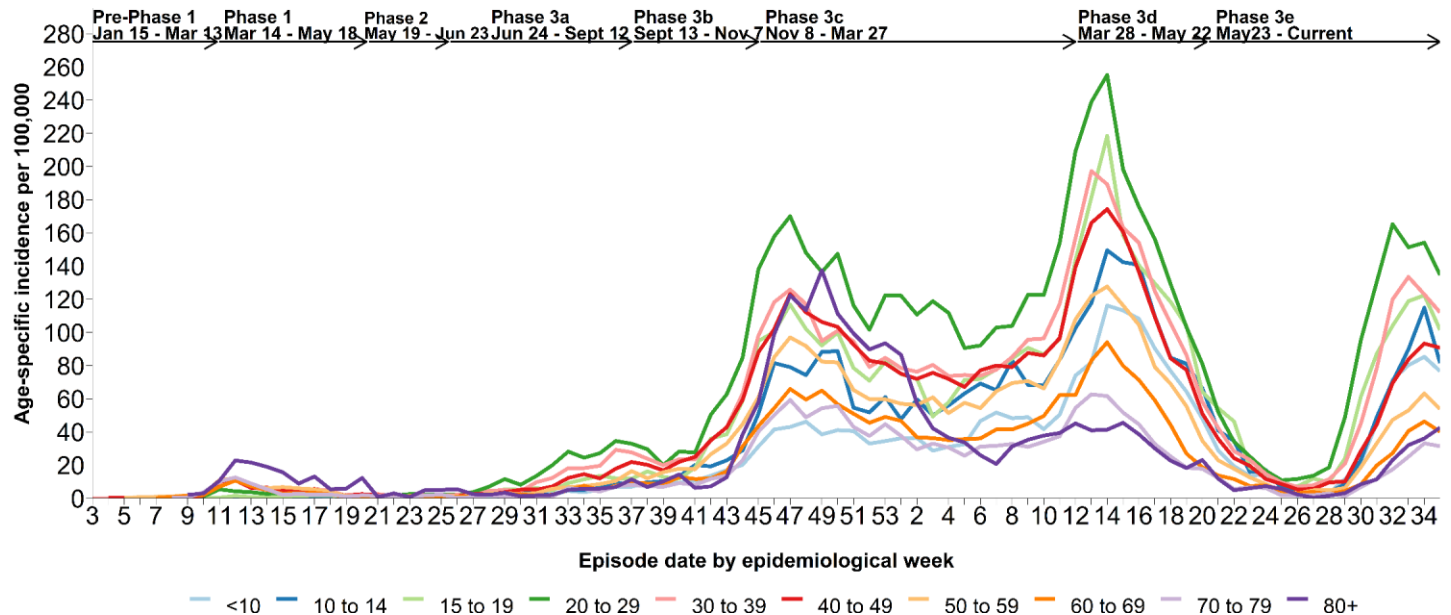


Figure 8. Weekly age-specific COVID-19 incidence per 100K population by epidemiological week, BC January 15, 2020 (week 3) – September 04, 2021 (week 35) (N= 171,150)



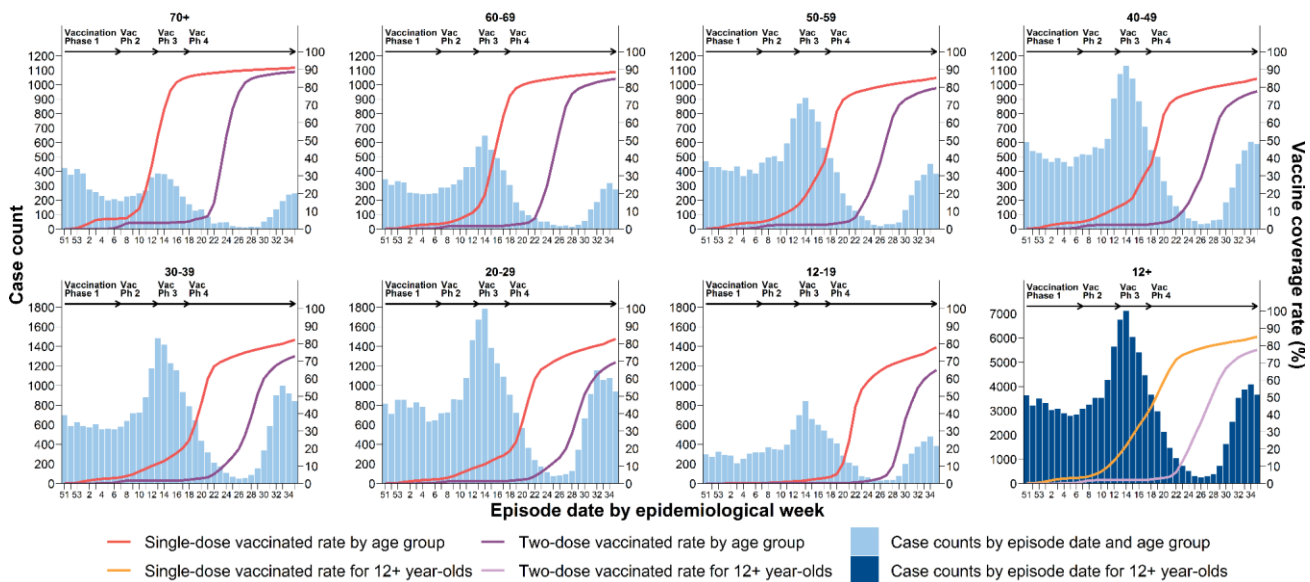
Vaccine coverage and weekly cases by age group

Vaccine roll-out in the community (i.e. individuals not residing in healthcare facilities, not healthcare workers and not clinically extremely vulnerable) was phased by age groups. The 70+ year-olds were eligible between weeks 10 and 14, the 40 to 69 year-olds started in weeks 15-19, the 20 to 39 year-olds started in weeks 19-20, and children 12-19 years of age started in week 20. As vaccination coverage increases, an impact on case counts is expected a few weeks later ([Figure 9](#)).

By week 35, the overall single-dose vaccination coverage in the eligible 12+ year-olds reached 85% and 77% were fully vaccinated. The single-dose coverage for age groups 50+ years ranged from 85-91%, and two-dose coverage ranged from 80-89%, with 907 cases reported for those age groups combined.

In week 35, single-dose coverage in the 20-49 year-olds was between 82-85% and two-dose coverage ranged between 69-78%, with 2,369 cases reported for those age groups combined. Single-dose coverage in the 12-19 year-olds was 78% and 65% were fully vaccinated, with 386 cases reported for that age group.

Figure 9. Weekly age-specific single-dose COVID-19 vaccine coverage and case counts by epidemiological week, BC December 13, 2020 (week 51) – September 04, 2021 (week 35)



Data sources: health authority case line list data and PHSa Provincial Immunization Registry

E. Severe outcome counts and epi-curve

The weekly number of hospital admissions has been increasing from week 28 to 35, from 16 to 251 admissions ([Table 3, Figure 10](#)). ICU admissions have been increasing since week 28, from 1 to 82 admissions in week 35, after a small decrease in week 34. Deaths have been relatively stable since week 33, with 17 deaths in week 33 and 21 deaths in week 35.

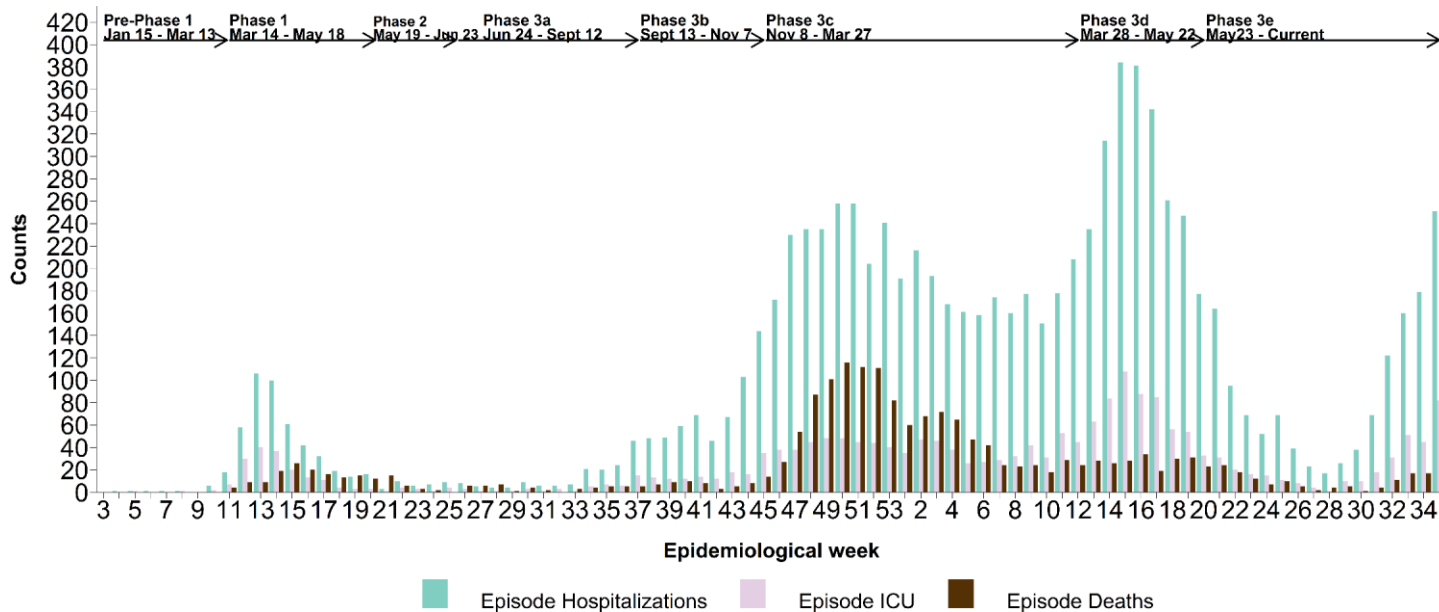
Cumulatively, there have been 17 confirmed cases of [Multi-system Inflammatory Syndrome in children and adolescents \(MIS-C\)](#) in BC from January 1, 2020 to week 35 in 2021, with no new cases reported since the last report. The median age of these cases is 8 (range 1-15) years.

Table 3. COVID-19 severe outcomes by episode date, health authority of residence, BC January 15, 2020 (week 3) – September 04, 2021 (week 35)

Severe outcomes by episode date	Health authority of residence					Residing outside of Canada	Total n/N ^a (%)
	FH	IH	VIHA	NH	VCH		
Week 35, hospitalizations	81	109	13	17	31	0	251
Cumulative hospitalizations^b	4,757	1,147	296	708	2,017	14	8,939/171,175 (5)
Week 35, ICU admissions	33	26	4	7	12	0	82
Cumulative ICU admissions^b	954	291	89	202	547	2	2,085/171,175 (1)
Week 35, deaths	3	7	5	2	4	0	21
Cumulative deaths	934	205	51	163	491	0	1,844/171,175 (1)

- a. Cases with unknown outcome are included in the denominators (i.e. assumed not to have the specified severe outcome).
- b. Data source: health authority case line lists only. Data may be incomplete and subject to change

Figure 10. COVID-19 hospital admissions and deaths by episode date, BC January 15, 2020 (week 3) – September 04, 2021 (week 35)



Data sources: health authority case line list data and PHSA Provincial Immunization Registry

F. Age profile, severe outcomes

Table 4 displays the distribution of cases and severe outcomes. In week 35, median age of hospital admissions, ICU admissions and deaths was 58 years, 60 years and 79 years, respectively, based on health authority case line lists only (data not shown).

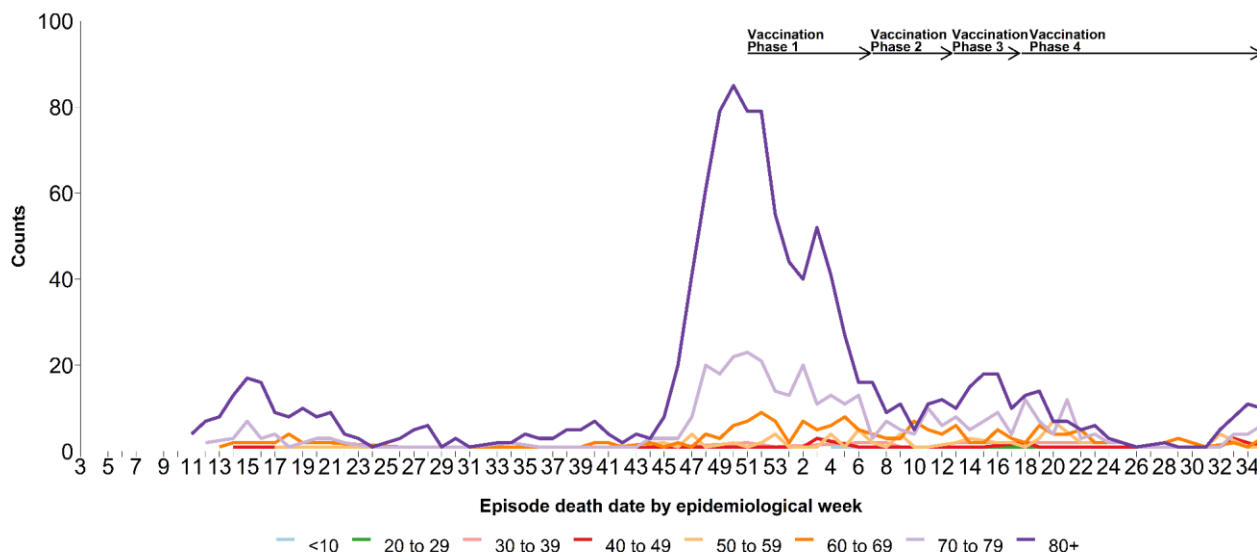
As shown in **Figure 11**, death counts in the 80+ age group have been increasing from 1 to 11 deaths reported in weeks 31 to 34, and have stabilized in week 35 at 10 deaths. Death counts in the 70-79-year-olds have been increasing since week 32 from 1 to 6 deaths in week 35. Since week 23, there has been a weekly average of 2 deaths in the 50-59, 60-69, 70-79 and 80+ year-olds. There was a weekly average of <1 death in the entire 0-49-year-old group since week 23.

Table 4: Age distribution: COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, ICU admissions, deaths, and BC population by age group January 15, 2020 (week 3) – September 04, 2021 (week 35) (N= 171,150)^a

Age group (years)	Cases n (%)	Hospitalizations n (%) ^b	ICU n (%)	Deaths n (%)	General BC population n (%)
<10	10,333 (6)	106 (1)	9 (<1)	2 (<1)	470,017 (9)
10-19	18,838 (11)	84 (1)	18 (1)	0 (<1)	529,387 (10)
20-29	39,603 (23)	502 (6)	61 (3)	2 (<1)	699,476 (13)
30-39	32,155 (19)	931 (10)	180 (9)	16 (1)	750,054 (14)
40-49	24,606 (14)	1,015 (11)	232 (11)	32 (2)	648,377 (12)
50-59	20,437 (12)	1,392 (16)	408 (20)	79 (4)	711,930 (14)
60-69	13,217 (8)	1,675 (19)	513 (25)	182 (10)	686,889 (13)
70-79	6,717 (4)	1,654 (19)	475 (23)	392 (21)	454,855 (9)
80-89	3,615 (2)	1,186 (13)	177 (8)	639 (35)	193,351 (4)
90+	1,629 (1)	410 (5)	18 (1)	500 (27)	52,885 (1)
Total	171,150	8,954	2,091	1,844	5,197,221
Median age^c	34	62	62	84	41

- a. Among those with available age information only.
- b. Data sources: health authority case line lists and a subset of PHS Provincial COVID19 Monitoring Solution (PCMS) data for children <20 years of age. PCMS data were included as of June 8 2021. Due to this change in data source, additional admissions that occurred since the start of the pandemic are now included in age groups 0-9 and 10-19 years.
- c. Median ages calculated are based on health authority case line lists only.

Figure 11. Weekly age-specific COVID-19 deaths by episode date, BC January 15, 2020 (week 3) – September 04, 2021 (week 35) (N= 1,844)^a



G. Care facility outbreaks

As shown in [Table 5](#) and [Figure 12](#), 362 care facility (acute and long-term care setting) outbreaks were reported in total in BC to the end of week 35. In week 35, no new outbreaks were declared based earliest case onset date. Since week 31, 22 (85%) outbreaks were reported from long-term care settings and 13 outbreaks (50%) occurred in IH.

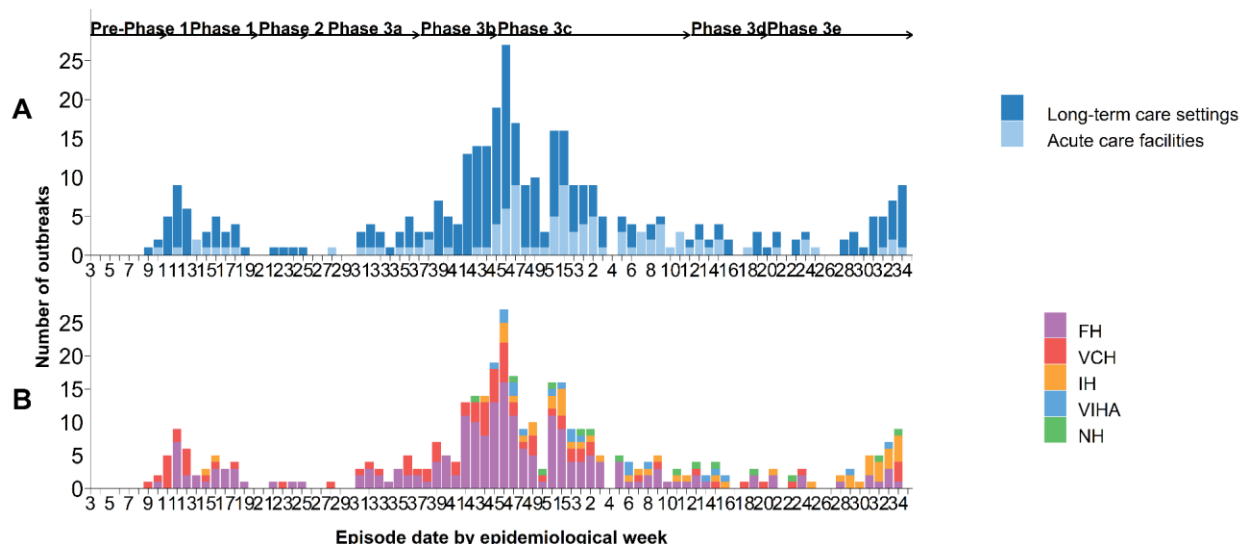
Nine (43%) out of the 21 deaths reported in week 35 were associated with an outbreak in a care facility setting.

Table 5. COVID-19 care facility^{a,b} outbreaks by earliest case onset^{a,c}, associated cases and deaths by episode date, BC^d January 15, 2020 (week 3) – September 04, 2021 (week 35) (N=362)

Care facility outbreaks and cases by episode date	Outbreaks	Cases				Deaths			
		Residents	Staff/other	Unknown	Total	Residents	Staff/other	Unknown	Total
Week 35, Care Facility Outbreaks	0	76	28	0	104	9	0	0	9
Cumulative, Care Facility Outbreaks	362	3,815	2,394	6	6,215	1,066	0	0	1,066

a. New outbreaks reported since the last report with an earliest case onset date prior to the current reporting week will be included in the cumulative care facility outbreak total.

Figure 12. COVID-19 care facility^b outbreaks by earliest case onset^c, facility type (A) and health authority (B), BC^d January 15, 2020 (week 3) – September 04, 2021 (week 35) (N=362)



- b. Care facility settings include acute care or long-term care settings (defined as long-term care facility or assisted living).
- c. Earliest dates of onset of outbreak cases are subject to change as investigations and data are updated.
- d. As of week 46, VCH and FH no longer declare outbreaks with single staff cases unless there is evidence of transmission within the facility.

H. Additional resources

Variant of concern (VOC) findings are available weekly here: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data#variants>.

For maps and geographical distribution of cases and vaccinations, visit the BCCDC COVID-19 Surveillance Dashboard here: <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/bccdc/viz/BCCDCCOVID-19SurveillanceDashboard/Introduction>

For global comparisons and additional epidemiological summaries on cases, severity and testing, visit the BCCDC COVID-19 Epidemiology App here: https://bccdc.shinyapps.io/covid19_global_epi_app/