

Vaccination of Congregate housing in Whistler

From: Daly, Patty [VCH] <Patricia.Daly@vch.ca>
To: Henry, Bonnie [EXT] <bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca>, Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX
Cc: albert.devilliers@interiorhealth.ca, Harding, John [VCH] <John.Harding@vch.ca>, Lysyshyn, Mark [VCH] <Mark.Lysyshyn@vch.ca>, 'albert.devilliers@interiorhealth.ca', XT:Harding, John HLTH:IN, XT:Lysyshyn, Mark Dr. HLTH:IN
Sent: March 11, 2021 11:31:09 AM PST
Attachments: Whistler EpiSummary 08Mar2021.pdf

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Hi Bonnie – I wanted to put on your radar our request to use AstraZeneca vaccine for the staff congregate housing site at Whistler. Penny is concerned about use of AZ for this population and suggests we use Pfizer or Moderna instead.

By way of background I am attaching the latest epidemiology – we have had 2 outbreak waves to date in Whistler with over 1,000 cases total – the major nidus of the outbreak is congregate, dorm style staff housing in Whistler, primarily young adults that work in over 100 businesses in Whistler including the sky resort but many other businesses as well. While at first we did not want to devote considerable resources to this particular outbreak given it is younger adults at lower risk of disease, as our public health teams have followed up on the 1,000+ cases we have come to understand that this group of workers is very much like the temporary foreign workers – there are continual new introductions of workers from across Canada and other countries, staying in settings similar (although likely of better quality) than other industrial worksites. While the second wave of cases has come down, we have had an uptake of cases in the last few days and we anticipate, because of ongoing new arrivals, there will be another wave. We have invested considerable resource in the community including a dedicated testing site and availability of rapid testing. An entire public health follow-up team, and a surge team, has been needed to follow-up cases and contacts. Few of those infected have the financial means to self-isolate elsewhere; some have slept in cars; the community has established a small number of hotel rooms.

In addition, this outbreak continues to seed the Sea-to-Sky corridor with COVID activity.

We propose using AZ vaccine because it is a younger adult population, and the vaccine is easier to store and use, and needs to be used quickly (we are prepared to start a clinic next week) – but we would be prepared to use either Pfizer or Moderna if there is not support to use AZ.

I am copying Albert as well because I believe you have had an outbreak at one of your ski resort communities and I don't know if it is also related to this kind of congregate housing, and whether you are also contemplating vaccination?

Patricia Daly, MD, FRCPC

Vice-President, Public Health & Chief Medical Health Officer

Vancouver Coastal Health

office 604 675 3924

e-mail patricia.daly@vch.ca

Erika Bell

Executive Assistant

office 604 675 3918

e-mail erika.bell@vch.ca

I acknowledge that my place of work lies on the unceded traditional homelands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.

The content of this e-mail is confidential and may be privileged. If you receive this e-mail in error, please contact the sender and delete it immediately.

From: Ramler, Geoff [VCH]

Sent: Monday, March 08, 2021 2:06 PM

To: Daly, Patty [VCH] ; Lysyshyn, Mark [VCH] ; Harding, John [VCH] ; Galligan, Rachel [VCH]

Cc: Forsting, Sara [VCH] ; VCH Public Health Surveillance Unit [VCH] ; Dallimore, Genevieve [VCH] ; Everson, Heather [VCH] ; Tayler-Hanson, Laura [VCH] ; Waite, Darnell [VCH]

Subject: Whistler Epi-Summary

Hello,

The Whistler epi-summary has been refreshed to include all cases reported as of yesterday, March 7th. As always, if anything requires further investigation, or if you have any feedback for next week's report, please reach out to myself or the PHSU team.

Thank you,

Geoff Ramler

Public Health Information Analyst

Vancouver Coastal Health, Public Health Surveillance Unit

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Whistler COVID-19 Epidemiological Summary

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Whistler COVID-19 Epidemiological Summary

Data as of March 7th 2021 11:59 PM

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Whistler COVID-19 Epidemiological Summary

Data as of March 7th, 2021, 11:59 PM

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Whistler COVID-19 Epidemiological Summary

Data as of March 7th, 2021, 11:59 PM

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** Previous week includes cases with a report date of March 1-7, 2021.*

Data Source: VCH CCT Data, as of March 7th, 2021, 11:59 PM. Prepared March 8, 2021 by Geoff Ramler, PHSU.

RE: Vaccination of Congregate housing in Whistler

From: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX^{s.15}
:
To: De Villiers, Albert, Daly, Patty [VCH]
Cc: XT:Harding, John HLTH:IN, XT:Lysyshyn, Mark Dr. HLTH:IN
Sent: March 12, 2021 9:20:15 AM PST

Sounds good, lets be sure we are messaging this is because these are congregate living settings and the workers travel as well as the season winds down. So this protects the community as well.

Thanks,

Bonnie

Dr Bonnie Henry

Provincial Health Officer

Office of the PHO

Ministry of Health

s.15; s.19

Mailing address: PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT

Victoria, BC

V8W 9P4

Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca

Phone: s.17; s.19

I gratefully acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional unceded territory of the Lekwungen Peoples, specifically the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. Hay'sxw'qu Si'em

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From: De Villiers, Albert
Sent: March 12, 2021 9:12 AM
To: Daly, Patty [VCH] ; Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX
Cc: XT:Harding, John HLTH:IN ; XT:Lysyshyn, Mark Dr. HLTH:IN
Subject: RE: Vaccination of Congregate housing in Whistler

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Thanks Patty,

We are looking into doing Big White – have had a running outbreak there for a while now.

This info will help a lot.

Albert

From: Daly, Patty [VCH] <Patricia.Daly@vch.ca>
Sent: Thursday, March 11, 2021 11:31 AM
To: Henry, Bonnie [EXT] <bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: De Villiers, Albert <Albert.DeVilliers@interiorhealth.ca>; Harding, John [VCH] <John.Harding@vch.ca>; Lysyshyn, Mark [VCH] <Mark.Lysyshyn@vch.ca>
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Patricia Daly, MD, FRCPC

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Vancouver Coastal Health

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e-mail patricia.daly@vch.ca

Erika Bell

Executive Assistant

office 604 675 3918

e-mail erika.bell@vch.ca

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From: Ramler, Geoff [VCH] <geoff.ramler@vch.ca>

Sent: Monday, March 08, 2021 2:06 PM

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Cc: Forsting, Sara [VCH] <Sara.Forsting@vch.ca>; VCH Public Health Surveillance Unit [VCH] <VCHPublicHealthSurveillanceUnit@vch.ca>; Dallimore, Genevieve [VCH] <Genevieve.Dallimore@vch.ca>; Everson, Heather [VCH] <Heather.Everson@vch.ca>; Tayler-Hanson, Laura [VCH] <laura.tayler-hanson@vch.ca>; Waite, Darnell [VCH] <Darnell.Waite@vch.ca>

Subject: Whistler Epi-Summary

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Thank you,

Geoff Ramler

Public Health Information Analyst

Vancouver Coastal Health, Public Health Surveillance Unit

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RE: Summary of Variant of Concern cases- Mar 25- 10 AM

From: Brodtkin, Elizabeth Dr. [FH] <Elizabeth.Brodtkin@fraserhealth.ca>
To: Daly, Patty [VCH] <Patricia.Daly@vch.ca>, Henry, Bonnie [EXT] <bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca>, De Villiers, Albert <Albert.DeVilliers@interiorhealth.ca>, Gustafson, Reka [BCCDC] <reka.gustafson@phsa.ca>, Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX
Cc: Krajden, Mel [BCCDC] <Mel.Krajden@bccdc.ca>, Prystajec, Natalie [BCCDC] <Natalie.Prystajec@bccdc.ca>, Harding, John [VCH] <John.Harding@vch.ca>, Lysyshyn, Mark [VCH] <Mark.Lysyshyn@vch.ca>, XT:Krajden, Mel HLTH:IN, XT:Harding, John HLTH:IN, XT:Lysyshyn, Mark Dr. HLTH:IN
Sent: March 25, 2021 3:12:33 PM PDT
Attachments: COVID_VOC_25March2021.pdf

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Here is today's epi summary of all of our VOC cases.

Dr. Elizabeth Brodtkin, MD, FCFP, MHSc, FRCPC

Vice President Population Health and Chief Medical Health Officer

Fraser Health

Phone: (604) 307-4928

Executive Assistant

Courtney.Morimoto@fraserhealth.ca

From: Daly, Patty [VCH]

Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2021 2:22 PM

To: Brodtkin, Elizabeth Dr. [FH] ; Henry, Bonnie [EXT] ; 'De Villiers, Albert' ; Gustafson, Reka [BCCDC]

Cc: Krajden, Mel [BCCDC] ; Prystajec, Natalie [BCCDC] ; Harding, John [VCH] ; Lysyshyn, Mark [VCH]

Subject: RE: Summary of Variant of Concern cases- Mar 25- 10 AM

Hi all – attached is an epi summary of our cases.

The initial P1 cluster on the North Shore is contained with no further recent cases. But in the last 1-2 weeks, we have seen a spike in P1 cases primarily in Vancouver first and recently in Whistler, not related to the North Shore cluster. Most are young adults. There are no other clusters the size of the North shore identified, but some transmission to close contacts from cases.

None of our cases, including those in the North Shore cluster, had a travel history outside BC. While the North Shore cluster was s.13 the acquisition for the index case was likely local and never identified.

All of our cases and their close contacts are under isolation and close monitoring by public health.

Patricia Daly, MD, FRCPC

Vice-President, Public Health & Chief Medical Health Officer

Vancouver Coastal Health

office 604 675 3924

e-mail patricia.daly@vch.ca

Erika Bell

Executive Assistant

office 604 675 3918

e-mail erika.bell@vch.ca

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From: Brodtkin, Elizabeth Dr. [FH] <Elizabeth.Brodtkin@fraserhealth.ca>

Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2021 12:08 PM

To: Henry, Bonnie [EXT] <bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca>; Daly, Patty [VCH] <Patricia.Daly@vch.ca>; 'De Villiers, Albert' <Albert.DeVilliers@interiorhealth.ca>; Gustafson, Reka [BCCDC] <reka.gustafson@phsa.ca>

Cc: Krajden, Mel [BCCDC] <Mel.Krajden@bccdc.ca>; Prystajec, Natalie [BCCDC] <Natalie.Prystajec@bccdc.ca>

Subject: RE: Summary of Variant of Concern cases- Mar 25- 10 AM

Hi Bonnie,

Here is a summary from our data team:

We are currently aware of a total of 14 x Brazilian P1 variants reported in FH, including

- Two household clusters
 - 1 household with s.22
 - 1 household with
- s.22 cases with a VCH connection
 - s.22 linked to a VCH confirmed case
 - with travel to Whistler
 - with possible exposures to a VCH gym/BC Woman's Hospital
- s.2 case associated with George Derby LTC (under enhanced monitoring on s.22)
- cases with unknown acquisition who deny travel/social gatherings

Note: additional s. cases (not included) were reported to us from BCCDC but were later to find to reside in Whistler and referred back to VCH.

Dr. Elizabeth Brodtkin, MD, FCFP, MHSc, FRCPC

Vice President Population Health and Chief Medical Health Officer

Fraser Health

Phone: (604) 307-4928

Executive Assistant

Courtney.Morimoto@fraserhealth.ca

From: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2021 11:25 AM

To: Daly, Patty [VCH] <Patricia.Daly@vch.ca>; Brodtkin, Elizabeth Dr. [FH] <Elizabeth.Brodtkin@fraserhealth.ca>; 'De Villiers, Albert' <Albert.DeVilliers@interiorhealth.ca>; Gustafson, Reka [BCCDC] <reka.gustafson@phsa.ca>

Cc: Krajden, Mel [BCCDC] <Mel.Krajden@bccdc.ca>; Prystajeky, Natalie [BCCDC] <Natalie.Prystajeky@bccdc.ca>

Subject: FW: Summary of Variant of Concern cases- Mar 25- 10 AM

Importance: High

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Hi,

I am growing increasingly concerned about the increase in the P1 Brazil VOC. I know there have been clusters in FH and IH that seem to be relatively contained as was the initial large cluster in VCH. The increase now seems to be primarily in VCH. We need to look at how we can contain this variant as much as possible given the vaccine effectiveness concerns we are seeing from Brazil. I would appreciate your advice on what we can do on this or insight into the increasing numbers.

My best,

Bonnie

Dr Bonnie Henry

Provincial Health Officer

Office of the PHO

Ministry of Health

s.15; s.19

Mailing address: PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT

Victoria, BC

V8W 9P4

Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca

Phone: s.17; s.19

I gratefully acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional unceded territory of the Lekwungen Peoples, specifically the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. Hay'sxw'qu Si'em

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From: David, Samara [BCCDC] <Samara.David@bccdc.ca> **On Behalf Of** COVID Surveillance

Sent: March 25, 2021 11:18 AM

To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>; Gustafson, Reka [BCCDC] <reka.gustafson@phsa.ca>

Cc: .FHA Medical Health Officers <FHAMedicalHealthOfficers@fraserhealth.ca>; _BCCDC_Micro Oncall <BCCDC_MicroOncall@bccdc.ca>; Ahmed, May [BCCDC] <may.ahmed@bccdc.ca>; Allison, Sandra [VIHA]

<Sandra.Allison@VIHA.CA>; XT:Amos, Heather HLBC:IN <heather.amos@bccdc.ca>; Benusic, Michael [VIHA] <Michael.Benusic@viha.ca>; CD Epi <CDEpi@fraserhealth.ca>; Clair, Veronic [BCCDC] <veronic.clair@bccdc.ca>; Corneil, Trevor [NHA] <trevor.corneil@northernhealth.ca>; Cummings, Esther [BCCDC] <esther.cummings@bccdc.ca>; ElAdam, Shiraz [BCCDC] <shiraz.eladam@bccdc.ca>; XT:HLTH Enns, Charmaine Dr. <charmaine.enns@viha.ca>; XT:Fumerton, Raina HLTH:IN <Raina.Fumerton@northernhealth.ca>; XT:HLTH Fyfe, Murray <murray.fyfe@viha.ca>; XT:HLTH Galanis, Eleni <eleni.galanis@bccdc.ca>; Gray, Andrew Dr. HLTH:IN <Andrew.gray@northernhealth.ca>; XT:Harding, John HLTH:IN <John.Harding@vch.ca>; HLTH COVIDAnalytics HLTH:EX <HLTH.COVIDAnalytics@gov.bc.ca>; Hoang, Linda [BCCDC] <Linda.Hoang@bccdc.ca>; XT:Hoyano, Dr Dee HLTH:IN <dee.hoyano@viha.ca>; XT:Kim, Jong HLTH:IN <jong.kim@northernhealth.ca>; XT:Kling, Rakel HLTH:IN <rakel.kling@northernhealth.ca>; XT:Krajden, Mel HLTH:IN <mel.krajden@bccdc.ca>; MHO and CD Nurse On Call [VCH] <MHOandCDNurseOnCall@vch.ca>; PHES [NHA] <phes@northernhealth.ca>; PHESU [IHA] <PHESU@interiorhealth.ca>; Pop Health Survepi [VIHA] <pophealthsurvepi@viha.ca>; Prystajeky, Natalie [BCCDC] <Natalie.Prystajeky@bccdc.ca>; Rose, Caren [BCCDC] <Caren.Rose@bccdc.ca>; Sbihi, Hind [BCCDC] <hind.sbihi@bccdc.ca>; Schertzer, Andrea [BCCDC] <Andrea.Schertzer@bccdc.ca>; Skowronski, Danuta [BCCDC] <Danuta.Skowronski@bccdc.ca>; XT:HLTH Stanwick, Richard <richard.stanwick@viha.ca>; Taylor, Jessica [BCCDC] <Jessica.Taylor@bccdc.ca>; XT:Taylor, Marsha HLTH:IN <marsha.taylor@bccdc.ca>; Tyson, John [BCCDC] <john.tyson@bccdc.ca>; VCH Public Health Surveillance Unit [VCH] <VCHPublicHealthSurveillanceUnit@vch.ca>; Waters, Shannon Dr. HLTH:IN <shannon.waters@viha.ca>; Sandhu, Jat [BCCDC] <jat.sandhu@bccdc.ca>; COVID Surveillance <COVID.Surveillance@bccdc.ca>

Subject: Summary of Variant of Concern cases- Mar 25- 10 AM

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Good morning,

Please see the updated variant summary attached.

There are a total of 1,772 cases, 191 new cases (152 UK, 3 SA, 36 BR).

Data are confidential and embargoed until 4pm today.

Thank you,

Samara

Samara David, MHSc

Epidemiologist

Tel 604.707.2524, Fax 604.707.2515

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RE: Whistler shut down

From: Mayhew, Neilane TACS:EX <Neilane.Mayhew@gov.bc.ca>
To: Wanamaker, Lori PREM:EX <Lori.Wanamaker@gov.bc.ca>, Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>, Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX <Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca>, Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>, Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX <Brian.Emerson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 30, 2021 4:24:41 PM PDT

I will follow up with the COO. When I spoke with him yesterday, there was no suggestion on his part that they would not follow the direction and so would proceed to close but I have not spoken to him today. I will get back to you Bonnie.

Neilane

-----Original Message-----

From: Wanamaker, Lori PREM:EX <Lori.Wanamaker@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 30, 2021 4:21 PM
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>; Mayhew, Neilane TACS:EX <Neilane.Mayhew@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>; Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX <Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca>; Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>; Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX <Brian.Emerson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Whistler shut down

Hi Bonnie. I've copied Neilane Mayhew. She has been speaking directly to Whistler and should be able to answer your questions.

Lori

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 30, 2021, at 3:18 PM, Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

I am following up to see where we are with the 'shut down' of Whistler ski operations. I was not on all the calls and am not clear if I need to write an order (and if so to whom, Vail resorts?) or if they have agreed to close voluntarily on our direction (and an order is not needed). I do know that sometimes an order is preferable as it triggers insurance etc.

Thanks,
Bonnie

Dr Bonnie Henry
Provincial Health Officer
Ministry of Health
Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca

s.17; s.19

Re: Whistler shut down

From : Mayhew, Neilane TACS:EX <Neilane.Mayhew@gov.bc.ca>
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>, Wanamaker, Lori PREM:EX <Lori.Wanamaker@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>, Emerson, Brian P HLTH:EX <Brian.Emerson@gov.bc.ca>, Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX <Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca>, Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: March 30, 2021 5:24:00 PM PDT

I have spoken with the COO at Whistler Blackcomb. I can confirm they are shut down. They have also made the decision to entirely close their winter season and focus on a re-open of the mountain for the summer season on May 21. Their original plans had been for a ski season beyond April 19th but decided for business reasons that it did not make sense to try to plan for a ski season post April 19th so as noted they will focus on planning for the summer season which opens May 21. On the question of whether an order is needed, he did confirm that he would like one in place. Can you advise on next steps and timing. Happy to work with Brian on that if that is easiest.

Neilane

Sent from Workspace ONE Boxer

On Mar. 30, 2021 4:20 p.m., "Wanamaker, Lori PREM:EX" wrote:

Hi Bonnie. I've copied Neilane Mayhew. She has been speaking directly to Whistler and should be able to answer your questions.

Lori

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> Thanks,

> Bonnie

>

> Dr Bonnie Henry

> Provincial Health Officer

> Ministry of Health

> Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca

s.17, s.19