

COVID-19 COUNCIL UPDATE, DECEMBER 13th, 2021

CANADA

Across the country the number of new cases has increased by 4 per cent over the last 21 days or 71,000 more cases. Canada is now reporting approx. 1.838 million cases.

Our active cases have increased by 33 per cent in the last three weeks with Canada reporting 36,936 active cases. Total number of deaths attributed to Covid-19 in Canada is currently reported to be 29,931.

Approx. 96 per cent of our confirmed cases have reportedly recovered.

Canada has administered over 63 million doses of vaccine to date, with 85.5 per cent of the eligible population aged 5 and over having at least one dose and 80.2 per cent being fully vaccinated.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

British Columbia Health officials reported 1,129 new cases of Covid over the last 3 days along with 5 additional deaths. There were 415 cases from Friday to Saturday, while 365 cases were reported from Saturday to Sunday, and 349 from Sunday to Monday.

The rolling seven-day average number of new cases now stands at 347 down from 383 as reported at our last Council meeting held Nov. 22nd. This represents a drop of 10 per cent over the last three weeks.

B.C. has reported over 223,142 cases of COVID-19 since the pandemic began of which 2,949 remain active. Active cases have decreased 6 per cent over the last 21 days. Approx. 97 per cent of reported cases are considered to have recovered.

The provincial test positivity rate is now at 3.1 per cent, down .3 per cent over the last 3 weeks. Hospitalizations have declined 45 per cent over the last 21 days and the province is reporting 185 people in hospital due to Covid-19 of whom 72 remain in intensive care.

Sadly, there have been 2,386 deaths attributed to COVID-19 in our province to date.

Health officials have reported a total of 86.5 per cent of British Columbians over the age of 5 have received a first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, while 89 per cent of eligible adults are fully vaccinated.

WASHINGTON

Total case count for Washington State is approx. 793,736

The seven-day rolling average number of new cases has decreased 21 per cent going from 1,712 reported at our last regular Council meeting to 1,352 reported as of yesterday.

Washington is currently reporting approx. 451,895 active cases.

There have been 9,608 deaths attributed to Covid19 in Washington State to date. This number has increased by 443 over the last three weeks.

62 per cent of Washington's total population is now fully vaccinated.

WHATCOM COUNTY

Whatcom County has reported approx. 18,961 total cases and 173 deaths attributed to Covid-19. Reported cases have increased by 6 per cent over the last three weeks and the number of deaths has increased by 9.

Whatcom is reporting slightly higher vaccination numbers compared to the rest of the state with approx. 63.2 per cent of Whatcom's total population is now fully vaccinated.

FEDERAL & PROVINCIAL NEWS

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said the government is “very concerned” by the latest projections about the Omicron COVID-19 variant

Those projections, made by chief public health officer Dr. Theresa Tam on Friday, suggest that Canada is on track to experience a COVID-19 resurgence, one that could worsen if the Omicron variant tightens its grip on the country. According to Tam’s latest COVID-19 projections, Canada is currently seeing a Delta variant-driven resurgence of COVID-19 cases. However, if infections keep rising and Omicron takes hold, that variant could outpace Delta and drive infections up over 26,000 a day by mid-January.

The University of Victoria has cancelled all in-person exams for the remainder of the month due to a rise in COVID-19 cases on campus. The university said in a statement it made this decision in consultation with Island Health and officials said they are seeing a “new trend” in COVID-19 cases.

In British Columbia everyone 18 years and older will be invited to get a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, starting with people most at risk. Starting in January 2022, people 18 years and older will get a booking invitation between 6 to 8 months after the date of their second dose. First and second vaccine doses will continue to protect against COVID-19 until a booster dose is received.

FRASER HEALTH

In the Fraser Health Region there have been over 110,000 Covid cases reported, and 1,120 deaths attributed to the virus. There are 105 new cases and 850 active cases in the region.

There is currently 1 outbreak at Ridge Meadows hospital in the Fraser Health region.

The 7-day rolling average number of new cases is trending downwards and is currently reporting at 99, a decrease of 31 in the last three weeks. The test

positivity rate for the Fraser Health region now stands at 2.1 per cent down from 2.7 as reported at our last Council meeting.

The BCCDC indicates that the City of White Rock's test positivity is now at 3 per cent, and the average daily case rate is down to 4, representing a 3 point drop based on new cases per 100,000 population. Comparatively, South Surrey has a test positivity rate of 3 per cent and a daily case rate of 5.

The BCCDC is reporting 2nd dose vaccination rates in White Rock of 90 per cent for the population aged 50 and over, 82 per cent of the population for those in the 18-49 demographic and 81 per cent for youth in the 12 -17 age group. The 5-11-year-old demographic is reporting 13% having had their first dose.
