

# COVID-19 Update and Discussion

## Manufacturing Safety Alliance of BC

Dr. Michael Schwandt, Medical Health Officer, Vancouver Coastal Health

July 6, 2021

*We recognize that our places of work and Vancouver Coastal facilities lie on the traditional homelands of the fourteen First Nation communities of Heiltsuk, Kitasoo-Xai'xais, Lil'wat, Musqueam, N'Quatqua, Nuxalk, Samahquam, Sechelt, Skatin, Squamish, Tla'amin, Tsleil-Waututh, Wuikinuxv, and Xa'xtsa.*



Source: [www.johomaps.net](http://www.johomaps.net)

# Outline

- COVID-19 in BC: Current State
- BC COVID-19 Vaccination Update
- BC's Restart
- Discussion

# COVID-19 in BC: Current State

# Jun 17 to Jun 23: BC COVID-19 Profile



147,271

total cases

597

new this week



1,744

total deaths

6

new this week



7,916

ever hospitalized

47

new this week



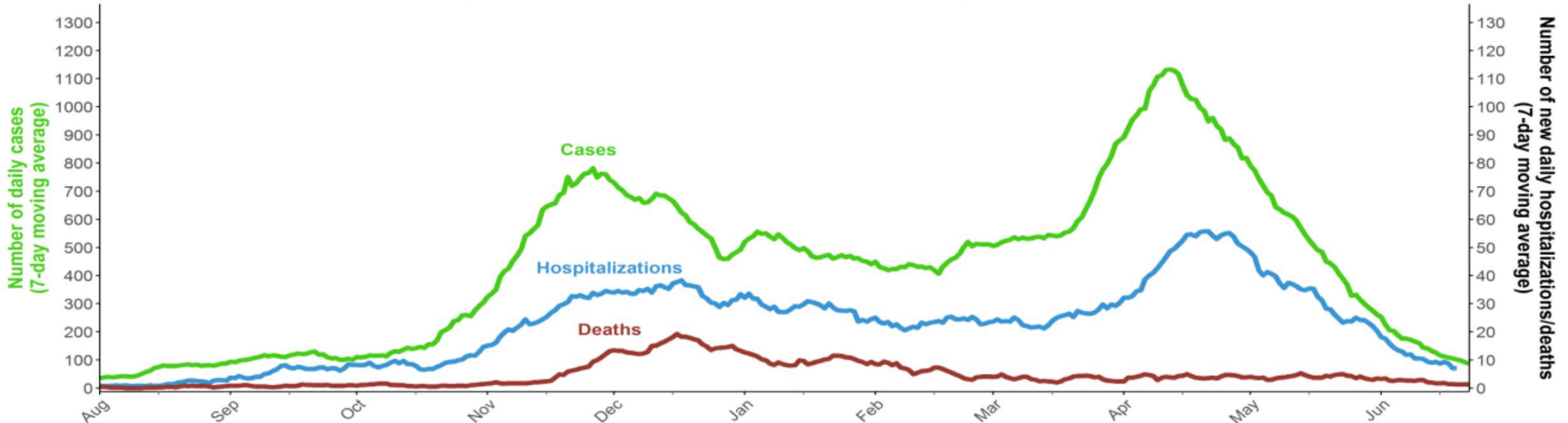
144,383

removed from isolation

934

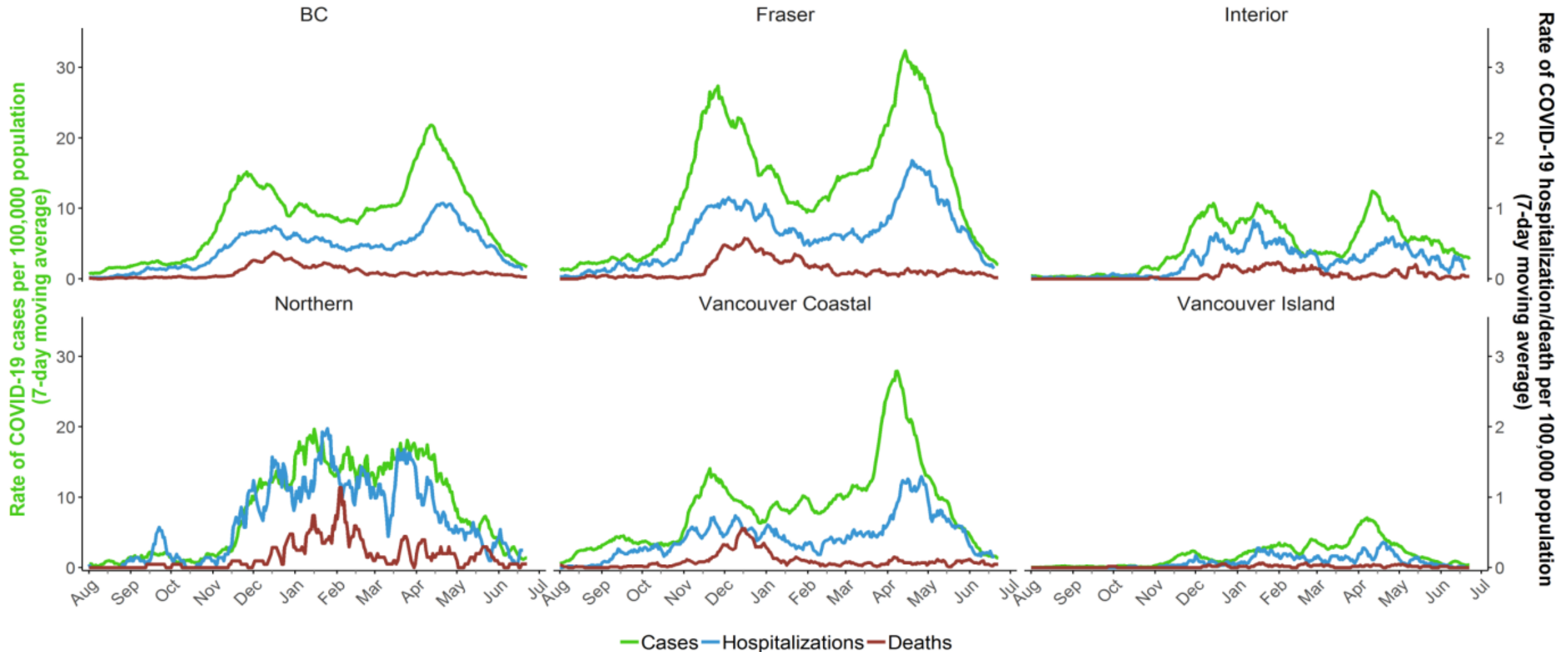
new this week

New daily COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths, Aug 01 2020 - Jun 22 2021

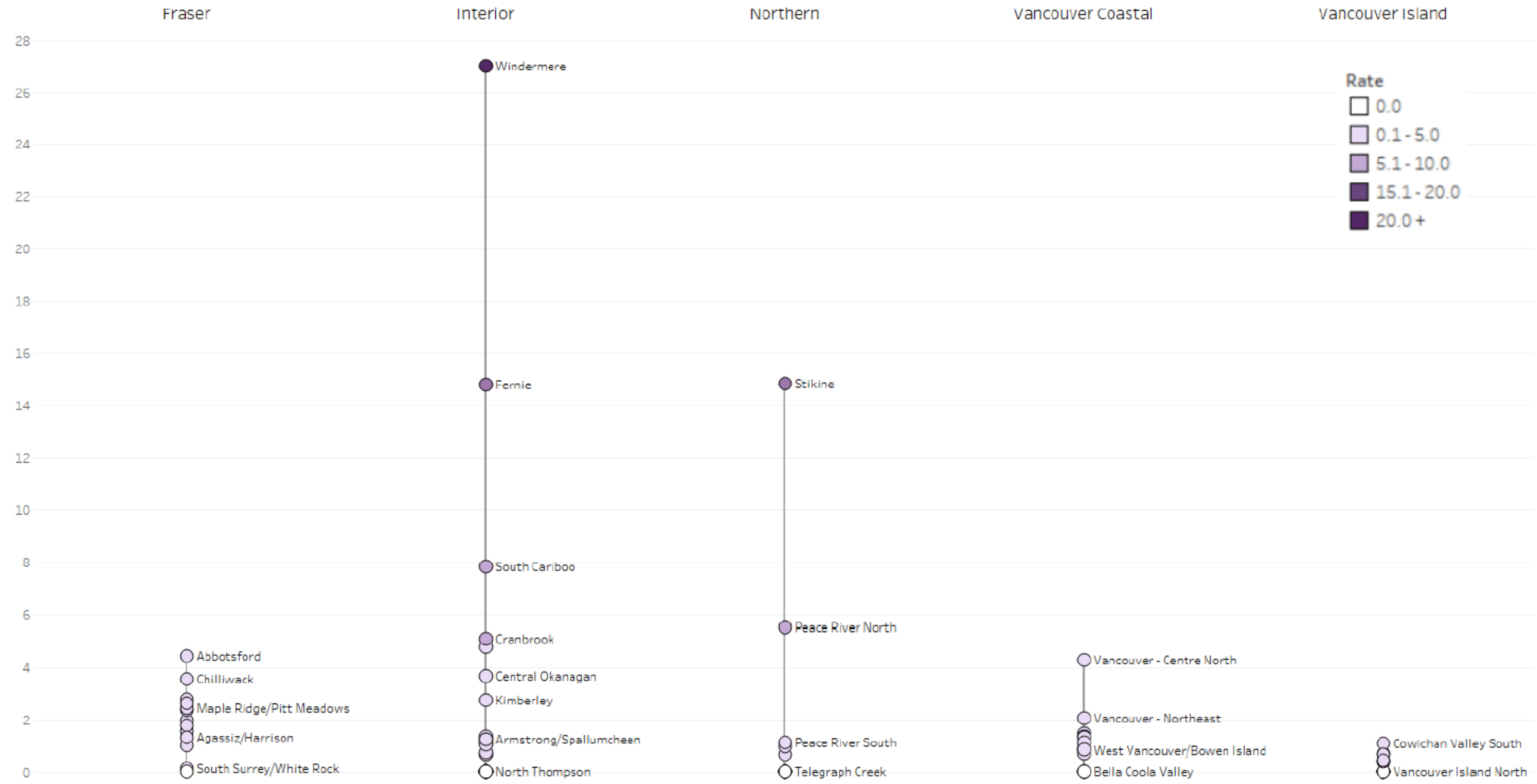


**Case** rates are declining in all HAs; **new hospitalizations** are declining or stable in all HAs; **new deaths** are stable and low.

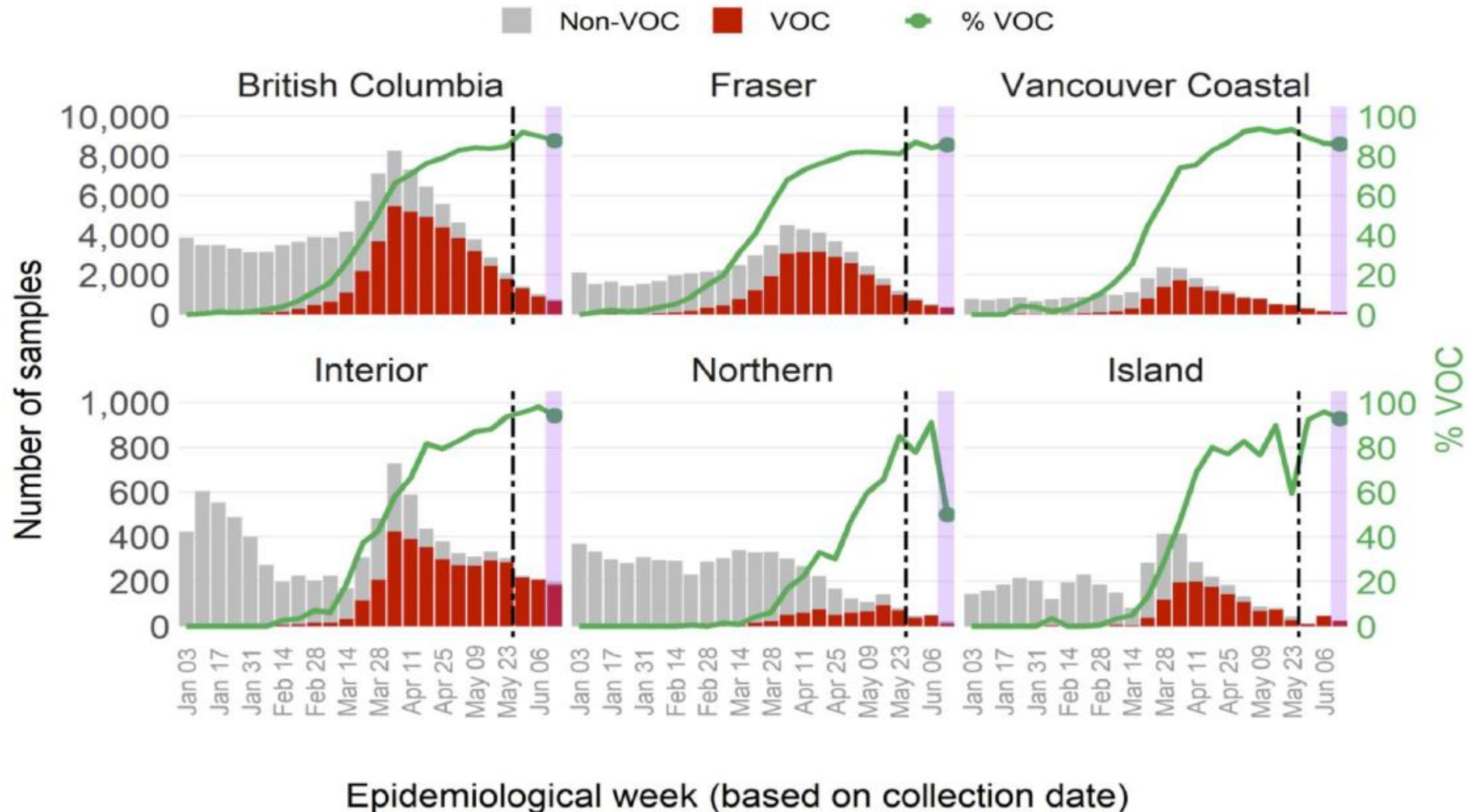
Rate of COVID-19 case, hospitalization and death, Aug 01 2020 - Jun 22 2021



Average daily **rate** of new cases per 100,000 population, by local health area, Jun 16 - Jun 22, 2021



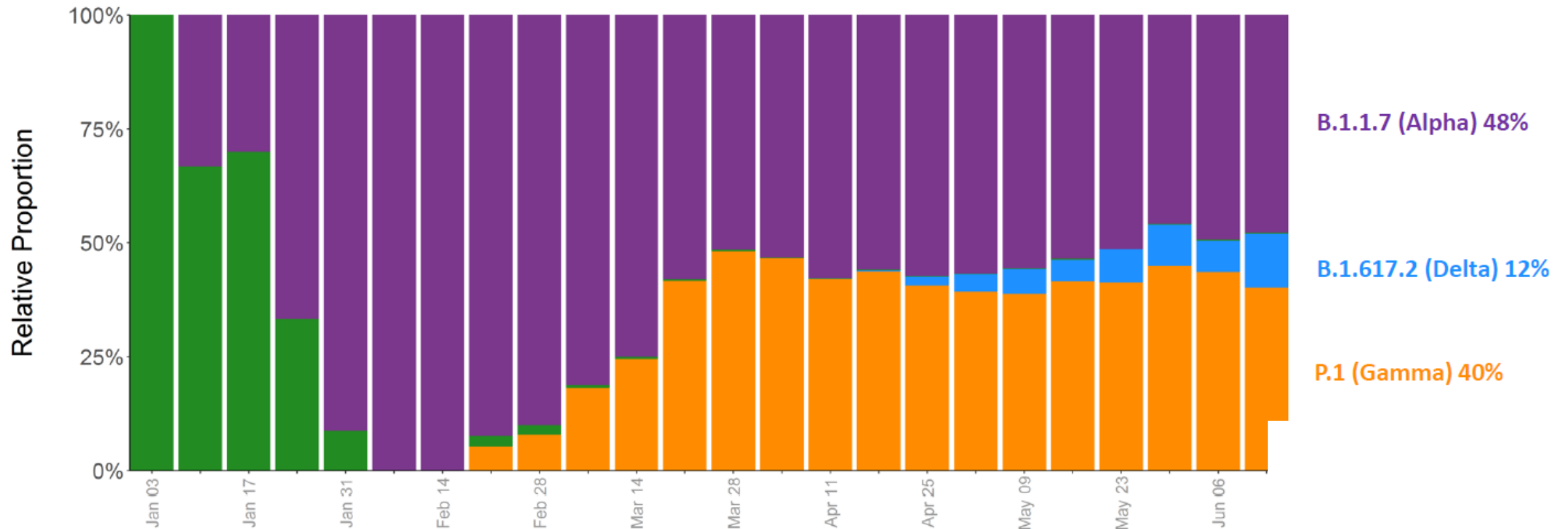
The majority of COVID-19 positive samples are VOCs (~88%); but the absolute number of VOC samples is small.



Shaded area reflects partial data and is subject to change

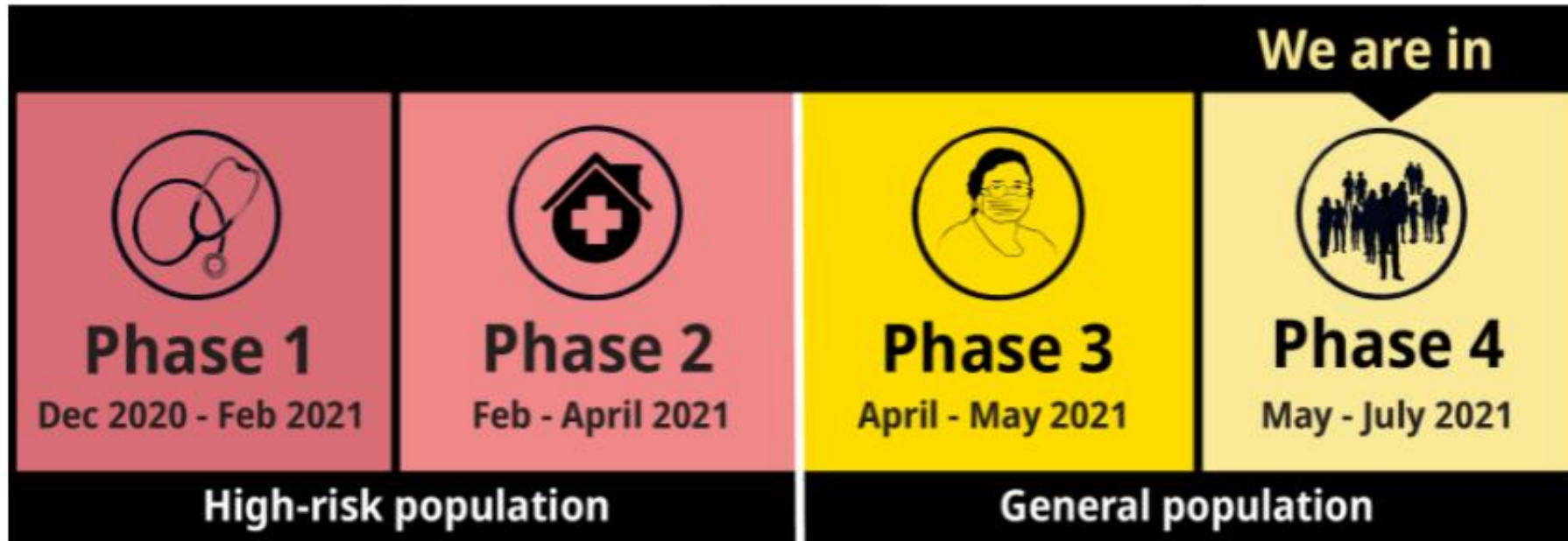


Among sequenced samples provincially based on information for June 13-19, P.1 (~40%) and B.1.1.7 (~48%) remain two dominant VOCs. B.1.617 increasing, currently represents ~12% of VOCs



# BC COVID-19 Vaccination Update

# COVID-19 Immunization in BC



As of July 2, 2021:

- 5,124,693 doses administered
- 3,597,982 people have received one dose (77.5% of 12+)
- 1,526,711 people have received two doses (32.9% of 12+)

# BC COVID-19 Immunization Plan



## Phase 1

### Phase 1 – Complete

**Timeline:** December 2020 to February 2021

- Residents and staff of long-term care facilities
- Individuals assessed for and awaiting long-term care
- Residents and staff of assisted living residences
- Essential visitors to long-term care facilities and assisted living residences
- Hospital health care workers who may provide care for COVID-19 patients in settings like Intensive Care Units, emergency departments, paramedics, medical units and surgical units
- Remote and isolated Indigenous communities



## Phase 2

### Phase 2 – Complete

**Timeline:** February to April 2021

#### Public health immunization clinics

- Seniors born in 1941 or earlier not immunized in Phase 1
- Indigenous (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) peoples born in 1956 or earlier, Elders and additional Indigenous communities not immunized in Phase 1

#### Priority groups

- Hospital staff, community general practitioners (GPs) and medical specialists not immunized in Phase 1
- Vulnerable populations living and working in select congregated settings
- Staff in community home support and nursing services

# BC COVID-19 Immunization Plan



## Phase 3

### Phase 3 – Complete

**Timeline:** April to May 2021

- People aged 79 to 60, in five year increments:
  - 79 to 75 (Dose 1 April)
  - 74 to 70 (Dose 1 April)
  - 69 to 65 (Dose 1 April)
  - 64 to 60 (Dose 1 April/May)
- Indigenous (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) peoples aged 64 to 18 (Dose 1 April)
- People aged 74 to 16 who are clinically extremely vulnerable (Dose 1 March/April)
- People aged 40+, incl. high-priority communities
- Priority front-line workers and outbreak management



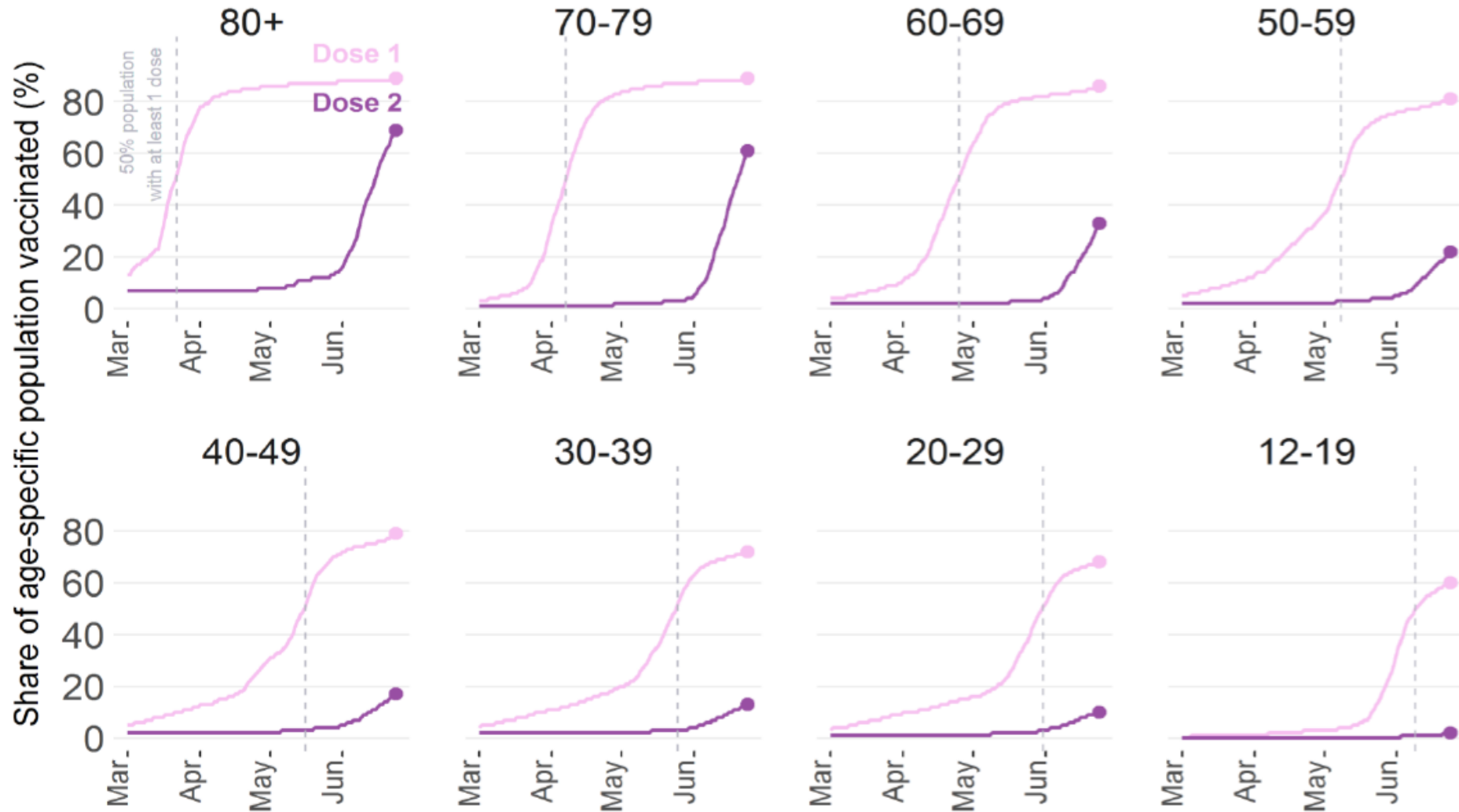
## Phase 4

### Phase 4 – Current phase

**Timeline:** May to June 2021

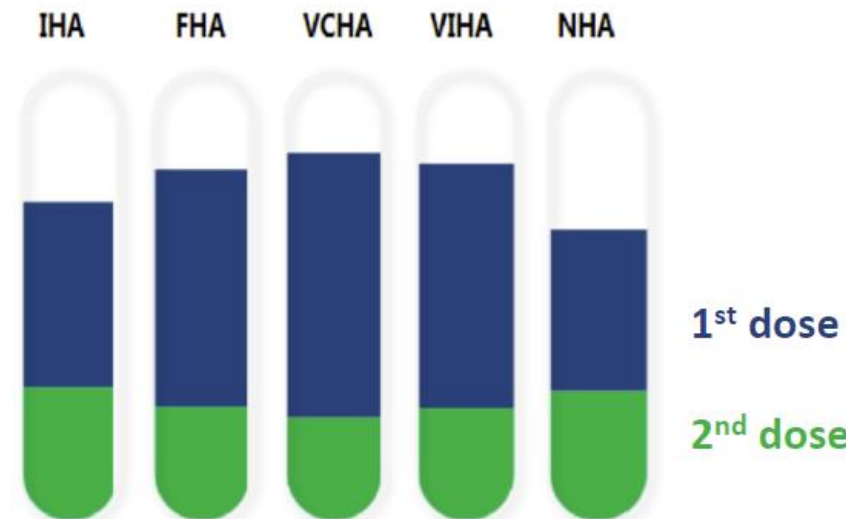
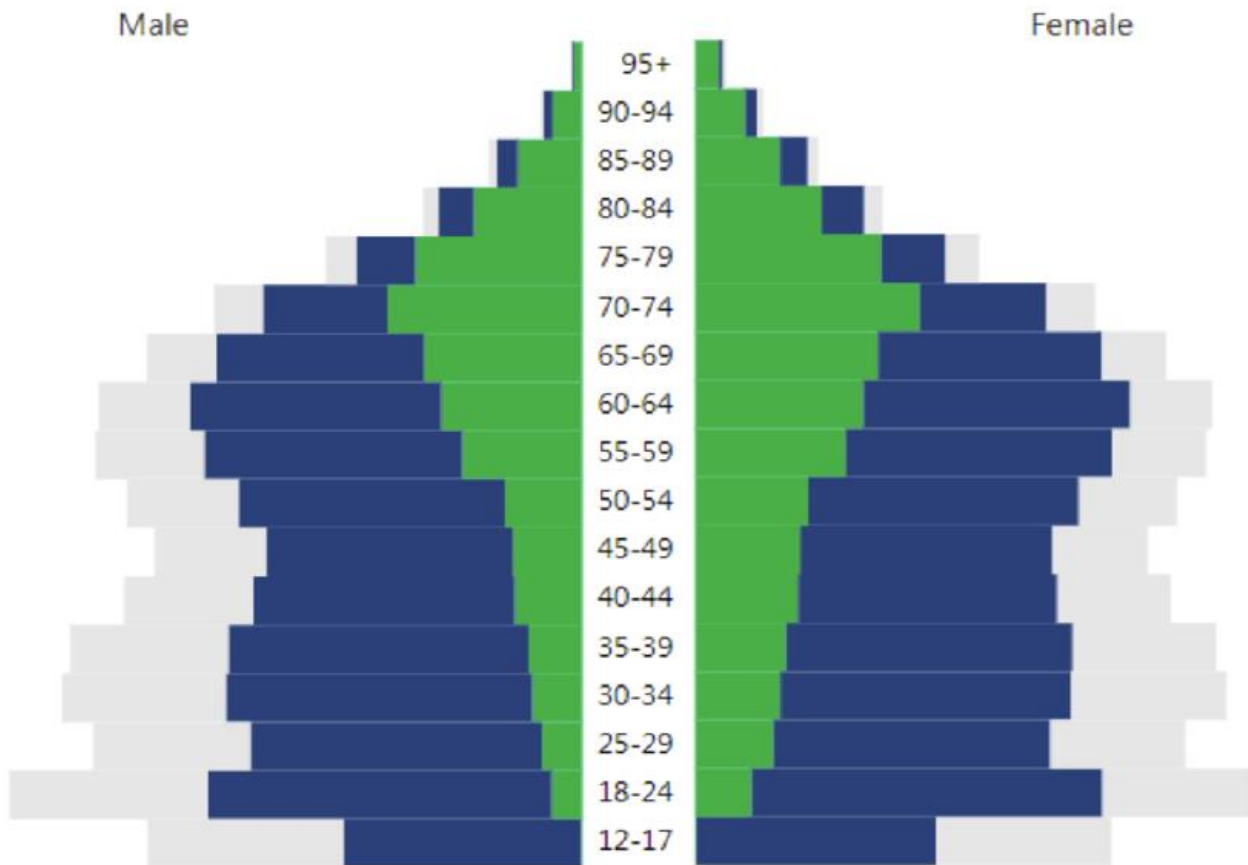
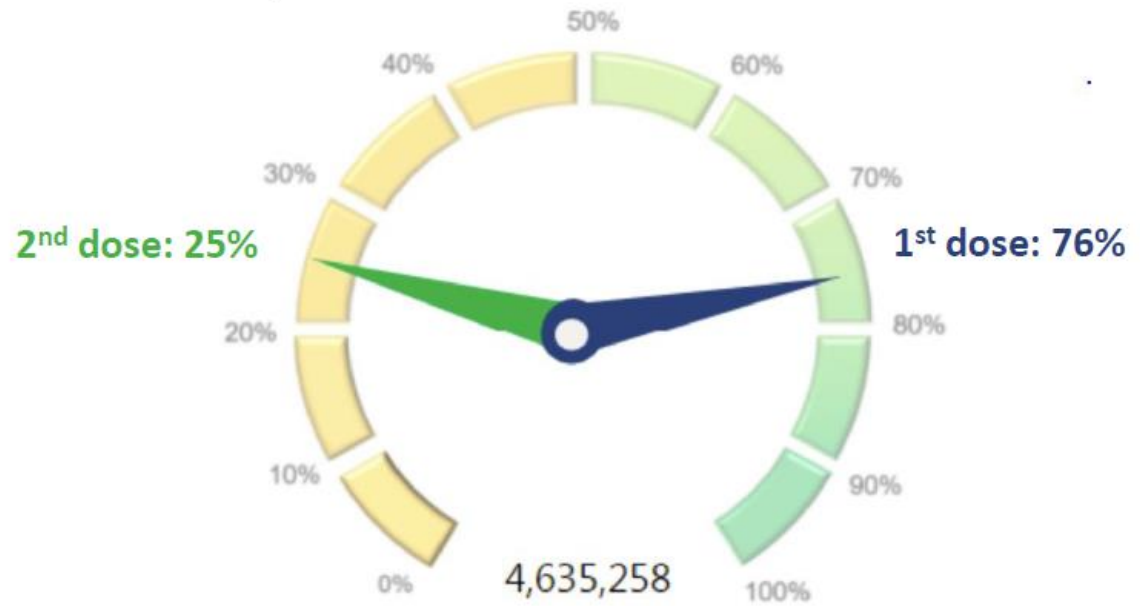
- People aged 59 to 18, in five year increments:
  - 59 to 55 (Dose 1 May)
  - 54 to 50 (Dose 1 May)
  - 49 to 45 (Dose 1 May)
  - 44 to 40 (Dose 1 May/June)
  - 39 to 35 (Dose 1 May/June)
  - 34 to 30 (Dose 1 June)
  - 29 to 25 (Dose 1 June)
  - 24 to 18 (Dose 1 June)
- **Second doses** are now being administered approximately 8 weeks after dose one for all groups.

Vaccine coverage in BC by age, June 25<sup>th</sup>: >75% of 12+ have received first dose; ~40 % of adults 50+, and 25% of 12+ have received their 2<sup>nd</sup> dose.

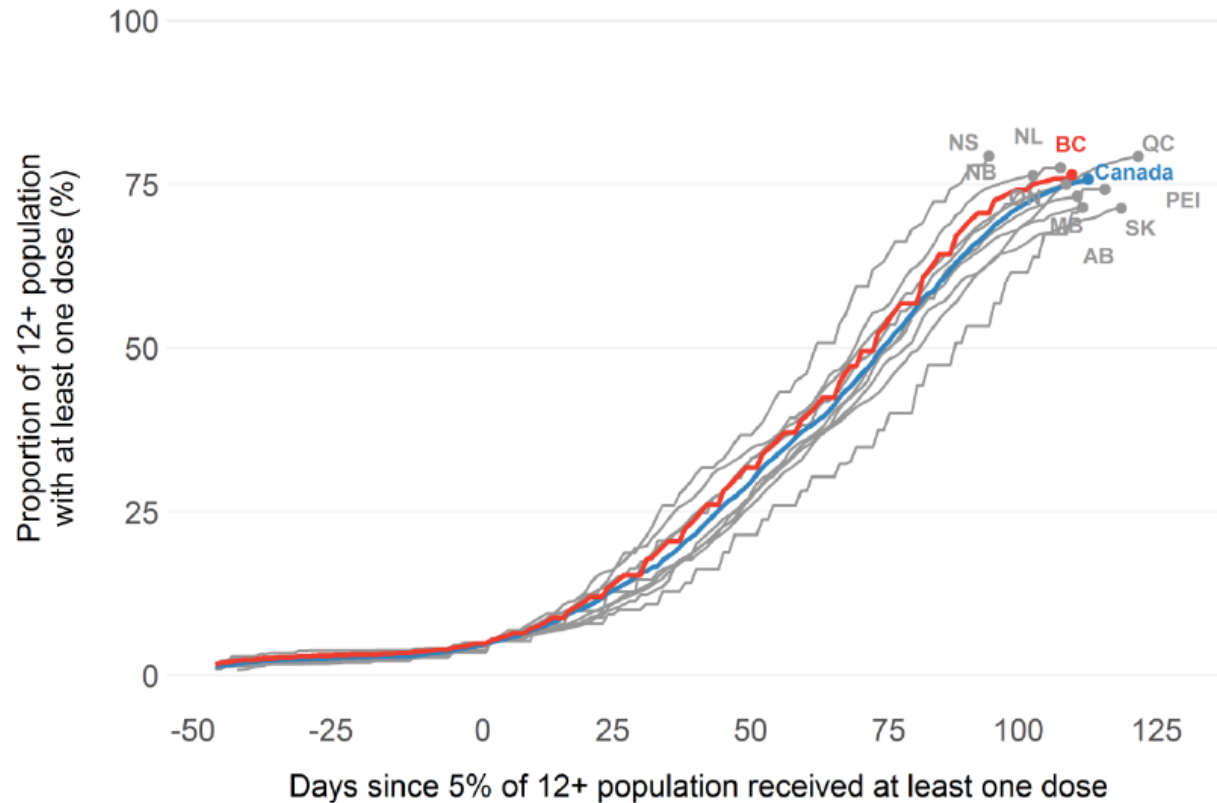


# Vaccination progress in BC as of June 24, 2021 for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> doses

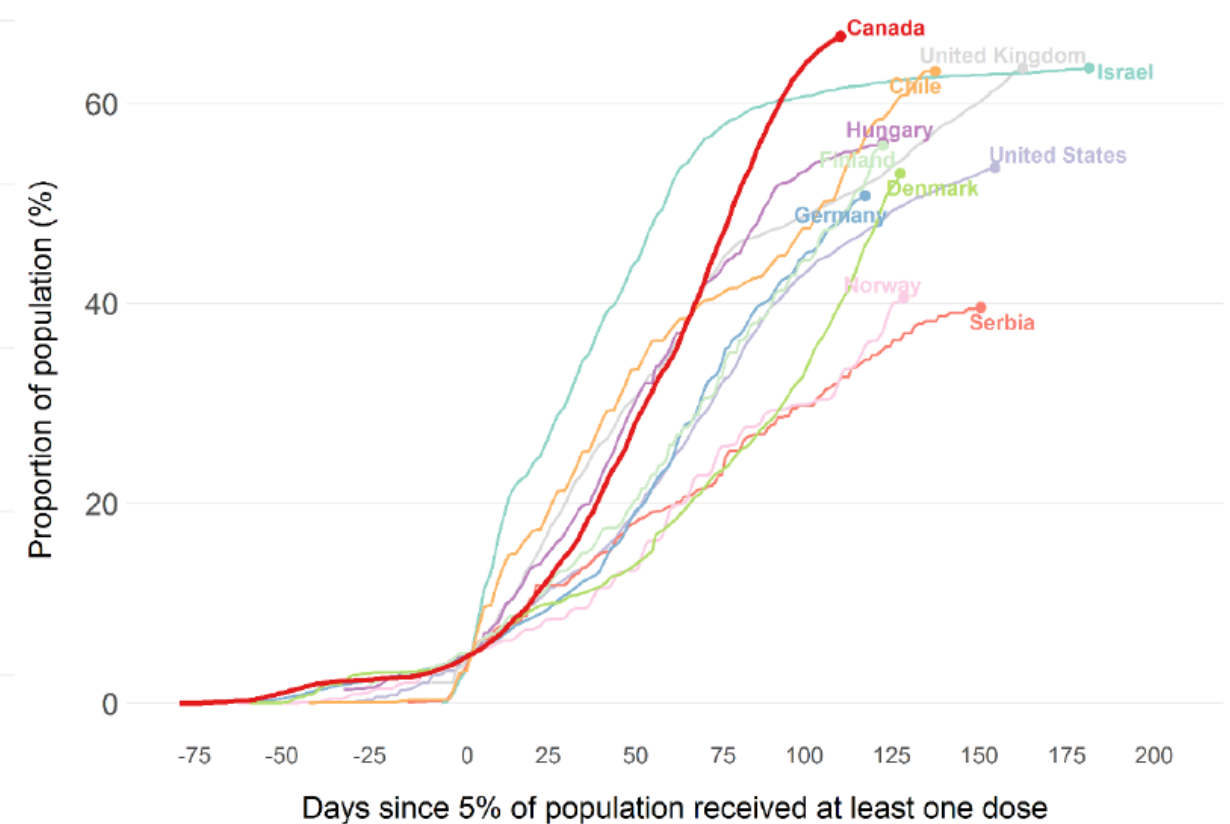
B.C. Population (12+)



Nationally, BC's vaccination rate is very close to Canadian average; internationally, Canada is one of the countries with the highest proportion of the population with at least one dose.



Data from COVID-19 Canada Open Data Working Group and extracted 2021-06-22  
Population denominator from Statistics Canada table 17-10-0005-01; 12-14 year old age group estimated



Data from Our World in Data and extracted on 2021-06-22



# BC's Restart

# BC's Restart Plan

**BC's Restart is a careful, four-step plan to help bring us back together**

**Our approach, like last year's restart, is focused on protecting people and safely getting back to a more normal life**

**We now have an important tool supporting our fight against the pandemic – vaccines**

**With more and more people getting vaccinated each day, we can gradually restart our important social connections, businesses, and activities**

**Bringing us back together – gradually**

**Keeping BC safe, getting people vaccinated and making sure our sacrifices aren't put at risk**

**Providing British Columbians with as much predictability as we can about our path forward**

**Supporting sectors across our economy as they adjust Safety Plans, return to normal operation**

**Staying flexible, monitoring the data and learning from our restart**

**BC'S RESTART: A PLAN TO BRING US BACK TOGETHER**

# Moving Forward Through the Steps

To progress through the four steps of our plan, we will be looking at:



COVID-19 case counts trends



Vaccination rates for 18+



COVID-19 hospitalizations including critical care



COVID-19 mortality

STEPS	Criteria	PHO Guidance	Personal Gatherings	Organized Gatherings	Travel	Sports & Activities	Businesses	Offices & Workplaces
<b>1</b> MAY 25	C: stable H: stable D1: 60%	Masks mandatory, indoor public spaces Physical distancing If sick, stay home and get tested	Outdoor personal gatherings – up to 10 people Indoor visitors – up to 5 people or 1 household	Indoor seated organized gatherings – up to 10 people Outdoor seated organized gatherings – up to 50 people	Recreational travel within your zone Non-essential travel between zones restricted	Low-intensity indoor fitness classes Outdoor local team games and practices for all ages – no spectators	Indoor & outdoor dining – up to 6 people Liquor service - 10PM Existing WorkSafeBC Safety Plans remain in place	Start gradual return to workplaces and offices Existing Safety Plans remain in place
<b>2</b> JUNE 15	C: declining H: declining D1: 65%	Masks mandatory, indoor public spaces Physical distancing If sick, stay home and get tested	Outdoor personal gatherings – up to 50 people Indoor visitors – up to 5 people or 1 household Playdates	Indoor seated organized gatherings – up to 50 people Sector consultations on next steps on indoor and outdoor gatherings	BC recreational travel BC Transit and BC Ferries – increased services as needed	High-intensity indoor fitness classes - reduced capacity Indoor team games for all ages – no spectators Spectators for outdoor sports – up to 50 people	Liquor service – midnight Banquet halls reopen – limited capacity, Safety Plans Sector consultations on next steps on easing of restrictions	Continue return to work Small in-person meetings
<b>3</b> JULY 1	C: low H: declining D1: 70%	Masks recommended – until fully immunized Increased social contact If sick, stay home and get tested	Return to usual on indoor and outdoor personal gatherings Sleepovers	Indoors – 50 people or 50% capacity, whichever greater Outdoors – 5,000 or 50% capacity, whichever greater Fairs/festivals – return to normal with Communicable Disease Plans	Canada recreational travel	Sports and exercise facilities – return to normal with Communicable Disease Plans	Dining – no group limits (regular liquor service, no socializing between tables) Casinos – limited capacity Nightclubs – seated at tables Transition to Communicable Disease Plans	Seminars and bigger meetings Transition to Communicable Disease Plans
<b>4</b> SEPT 7 (Earliest date)	C: low H: low D1: 70%+	Masks – personal choice Normal social contact If sick, stay home and get tested	Normal social contact	Full capacity for all organized gatherings	Canada recreational travel	Sports and exercise facilities – continue to operate with Communicable Disease Plans	Return to normal with Communicable Disease Plans	Fully re-opened offices and workplaces

C: C-19 case counts    H: C-19 hospitalizations    D1: minimum % of people 18+ with dose 1

# Workplaces: New Guidelines

- The PHO and WorkSafeBC are assisting employers to transition from COVID-19 Safety Plans to Communicable Disease Plans – these plans focus on appropriate handwashing and personal hygiene, ventilation and staying home when sick
- Additional safety precautions will be required in higher risk workplaces
- Outbreaks will continue to be managed by the local public health teams including issuing additional restrictions or business closures if necessary

Examples of what this might mean for you



# Updated Mask Guidance in Step 3

- Mask wearing is recommended in indoor public spaces for all people 12 and older who are not yet fully vaccinated
- Fully vaccinated means 14-days after receiving your second dose
- Some people may choose to continue to wear a mask and that's OK – we all need to go at our own pace
- The Face Coverings Order under the Emergency Program Act will be lifted and no proof of vaccination will be needed



# **Our Focus Remains the Same**

**Bringing us back together – safely and gradually.**

**Respecting people's different comfort levels and personal situations  
as we move forward together.**

**Supporting sectors across our economy as they transition away  
from COVID-19 Safety Plans.**

**Staying flexible, monitoring the data and learning throughout our restart.**

# Thank you! Questions?

This presentation includes information from the following resources:

- *BC's Restart: A Plan to Bring Us Back Together, May 25 2021*
- *BC's Restart: Another Step Forward, June 29 2021*
- *BCCDC Weekly Data Summary, June 24 2021*
- *BC COVID-19 Immunization Plan*
- *Joint statement on B.C.'s COVID-19 response, July 2 2021*