

## British Columbia (BC) COVID-19 Situation Report

### Week 49: November 29 – December 5, 2020

Table of Contents		<b>COVID-19 plateaus in the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island, but continues to climb in Northern and Interior Health Authorities</b>
Pandemic phase definitions	<a href="#">2</a>	Cumulatively, there have been 38,851 COVID-19 cases in BC to end of week 49 (754 per 100K population). There were 4,867 new reports in week 49 (95 per 100K), a 16% decrease from the 5,796 reports in week 48 (113 per 100K), and representing the first substantial decline in weekly reports since the September start of Phase 3b. Note that weekly tallies by report date include cases with onset in prior weeks. Based upon episode date, incidences in weeks 48 and 49 were 94 and 77 per 100K, respectively, subject to change as data (notably onset dates) become more complete, but lower so far than week 47 (97 per 100K).
Epidemic curve	<a href="#">2</a>	
Weekly incidence by health authority and health service delivery area	<a href="#">2</a>	Incidence in week 49 exceeded 130 per 100K in Fraser (FHA) and 60 per 100K in Vancouver Coastal (VCHA), both lower than week 47. Incidence also exceeded 60 per 100K in Northern (NHA) and 45 per 100K in Interior (IHA), both higher than week 47. In Vancouver Island (VIHA) incidence was <10 per 100K, lower than week 47. Incidence decreased in recent weeks in all age groups, albeit still elevated and notably so for adults 80+ years at 123 per 100K.
Test rates and % positive	<a href="#">4</a>	
Age profile, testing and cases	<a href="#">5</a>	
Severe outcome counts	<a href="#">8</a>	Whereas percent positivity increased steadily from weeks 41-46 (from about 2% to 9%), it remained stable in weeks 48 and 49 (at about 8%). Positivity in week 49 exceeded 10% in FHA and NHA; 6% in VCHA and IHA; and 1% in VIHA. In NHA, positivity increased from week 47 (8%), but elsewhere was relatively stable. Positivity was lowest in children 0-9 years (5%) but otherwise similar at about 8% in other age groups, highest in elderly adults 80+ years (9%).
Age profile, severe outcomes	<a href="#">9</a>	
Likely sources of infection	<a href="#">10</a>	Cumulatively, there have been 2,066 hospitalizations in BC to end of week 49. Whereas the weekly tally of hospitalizations increased steadily from weeks 41-46 (from 68 to 167), it remained elevated but relatively stable in weeks 47 and 48 (223 and 229, respectively), decreasing slightly in week 49 (212).
Care facility outbreaks	<a href="#">11</a>	
Clinical indicators	<a href="#">12</a>	Cumulatively, there have been 559 deaths in BC to end of week 49. The number of deaths per week increased substantially from weeks 41-46 (from 7 to 26), and (unlike hospitalizations) has continued to increase in weeks 47, 48 and 49 (60, 93 and 98, respectively). In week 49, 79/98 (81%) deaths were associated with a care facility outbreak and 93/98 (95%) were 70+ years.
		Cumulatively, there have been 216 care facility outbreaks to end of week 49, with 15 reported in week 49 (9 FHA, 3 VIHA, 2 IHA, 1 VCHA), 12 with earliest onset date in prior weeks. The highest tally so far by earliest onset date was in week 46 (26).

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

- Unlike other summaries based on report date, this bulletin mainly adopts episode date defined by dates of illness onset, hospital admission, or death. Only when those dates are unknown, is report date used.
- Data are provided by epidemiological week. Episode-based tallies for recent weeks are expected to increase as case data, in particular onset dates, become more complete.
- Per capita rates/incidences are based on PEOPLE2020 population estimates (n=5,139,568 for BC overall).
- Laboratory data include Medical Service Plan (MSP) (e.g. clinical diagnostic) as well as non-MSP (e.g. screening) specimens. The percent of specimens testing positive is presented here for all specimens tested as well as separately for MSP-funded specimens only. Given the systematically lower likelihood of test positivity among screening vs diagnostic specimens, summary analyses are foremost based on MSP-funded diagnostic specimens unless otherwise specified.

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

<b>PRE-PHASE 1</b> Before implementation January 15 (wk 3) to March 13 (wk 11), 2020	<b>PHASE 1</b> Implementation March 14 (wk 11) to May 18 (wk 21), 2020	<b>PHASE 2</b> Initial relaxation May 19 (wk 21) to June 23 (wk 26), 2020	<b>PHASE 3a</b> Further relaxation June 24 (wk 26) to Sept 12 (wk 37), 2020	<b>PHASE 3b</b> Start of school year Sept 13 (wk 38) to Current (wk 49), 2020
From earliest onset date	From start of March break  Additionally: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mass gatherings &gt;50 banned (Mar 16)</li> <li>○ Traveller self-isolation required (Mar 17)</li> <li>○ Service restrictions (Mar 18)</li> <li>○ US/Canada border closure (Mar 20)</li> </ul>	Re-opening of services  Additionally: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gradual/part-time return to school of K-12 students for 2019-20 school year (Jun 1)</li> </ul>	Broader re-opening  Additionally: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Re-opening non-essential travel in BC, hotels, TV/film</li> <li>○ Return to in-class learning for 2020-21 school year, partial week (Thurs, Sept 10)</li> </ul>	From first complete epidemiological week of 2020-21 school year

**A. COVID-19 case counts and epidemic curve**Report tallies by week

As shown by the gray line in [Figure 1](#), there were 4,867 (95 per 100K) new COVID-19 cases reported in week 49 which represents a 16% decrease from the 5,796 (113 per 100K) reports in prior week 48. This is the first substantial decrease in reported cases since the start of Phase 3b, although still 13 times higher than the wave one peak of 442 new reports in week 13. Note that the weekly tally by report date includes cases with illness onset date in preceding weeks. Analyses instead based on episode date (i.e. illness onset date and, only if that is unavailable, then case report date) may better represent the timing of epidemic evolution. The bars in [Figure 1](#) display the epidemic curve based on episode date, coloured by health authority. Note that episode-based tallies for recent weeks are expected to increase as case data, in particular onset dates, become more complete (as emphasized by the pale blue shading in [Figure 1](#)).

Episode-based cumulative incidence: provincially and by health authority (HA) (not shown)

Provincially, between week 3 (mid-January) and week 49 (late November, early December), there have been 38,851 cases in total in BC, corresponding to a cumulative incidence of 754 per 100K. By HA, this cumulative tally (and incidence) includes: 24,751 cases in Fraser Health Authority (FHA: 1,276 per 100K); 9,894 cases in Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (VCHA: 817 per 100K); 2,288 cases in Interior Health Authority (IHA: 274 per 100K); 1,095 cases in Northern Health Authority (NHA: 381 per 100K); and 729 cases in Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA: 84 per 100K).

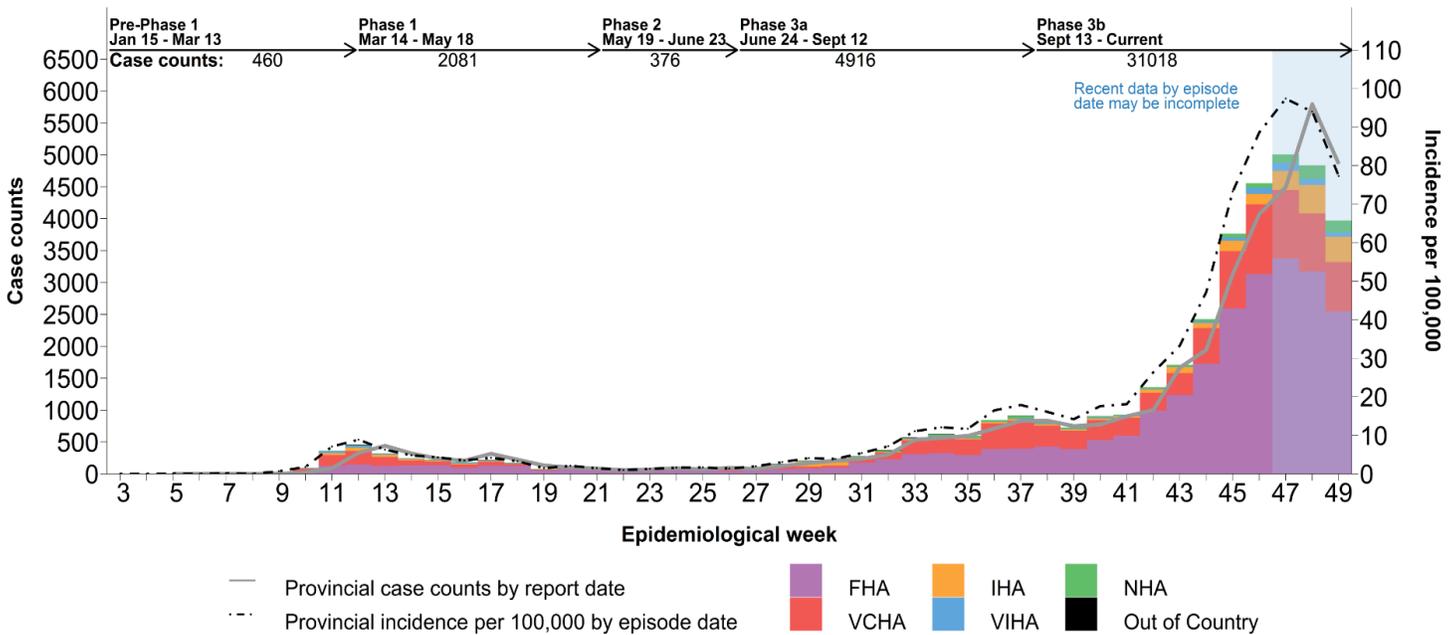
Episode-based weekly incidence: provincially and by HA and health service district area (HSDA)

As shown in [Figure 1](#), COVID-19 incidence in week 38, the mid-September start of Phase 3b, was 16 per 100K but showed steady increase from week 41 (18 per 100K) to week 47 (97 per 100K).

As of data extraction for the current bulletin, there were 4,831 and 3,971 cases with episode date in weeks 48 and 49, respectively, corresponding to incidences of 94 and 77 per 100K – about five times higher than the start of Phase 3b, but lower than week 47. These episode-based rates are also subject to change as data (notably onset dates) become more complete, but are so far lower than week 47.

As shown in [Figure 2](#), week 49 incidence was highest in FHA at 131 per 100K and was 64 per 100K in VCHA, both lower than week 47 (174 and 88 per 100K, respectively). Incidence in NHA was 64 per 100K and in IHA was 48 per 100K, both higher than week 47 (45 and 36 per 100K, respectively), indicating ongoing increase. Rates in these respective health authorities were driven by: Fraser South; Vancouver; Northern Interior and Northwest; and Okanagan health service district areas (HSDAs). In VIHA, week 49 incidence was 8 per 100K, led by North Vancouver Island HSDA but lower overall than week 47 (15 per 100K) and still the lowest overall by HA.

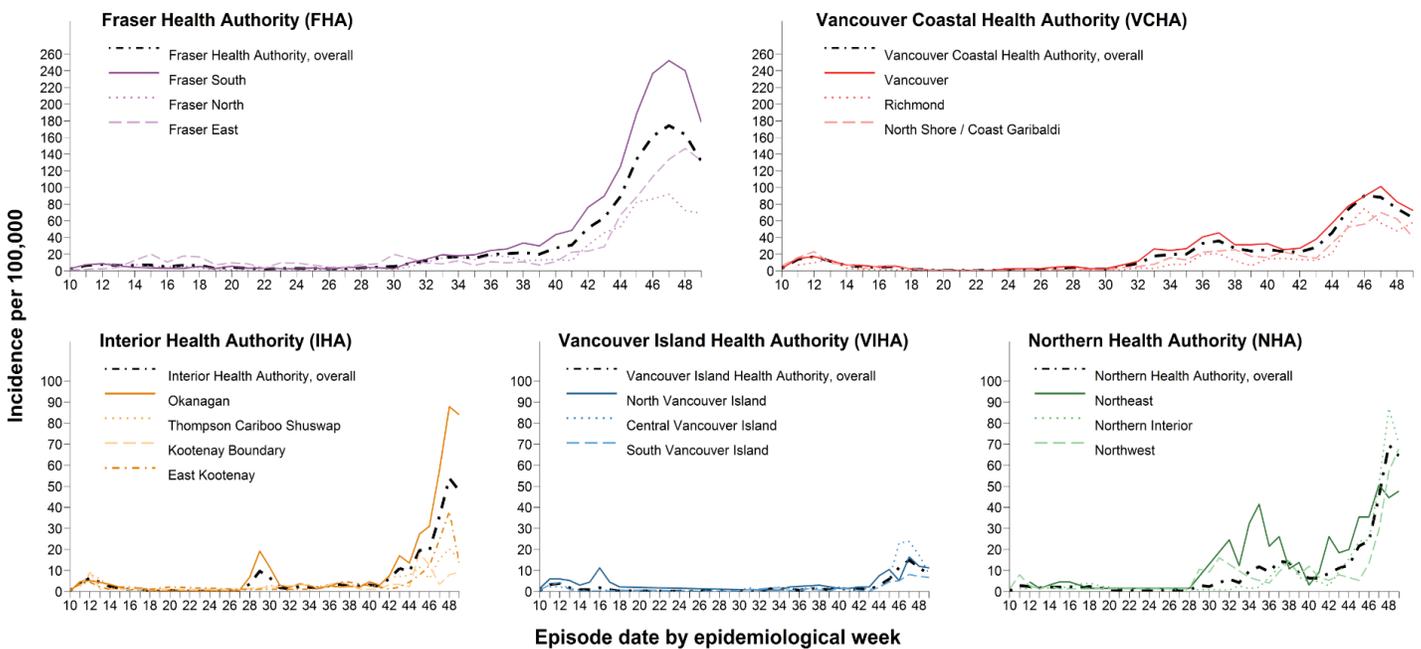
**Figure 1. Episode-based epidemic curve (bars)<sup>a</sup>, report date (line) and health authority (HA), BC January 15, 2020 (week 3) – December 5, 2020 (week 49) (N= 38,851)**



The average weekly rate by phase in Figure 1 is derived as the incidence divided by the number of weeks for: Pre-Phase 1 (8 weeks), Phase 1 (9 weeks), Phase 2 (5 weeks), Phase 3a (11.5 weeks), and Phase 3b (12 weeks).

a. First onset date of a case in BC was January 15, 2020. Displayed data extracted after noon on Friday, December 11, 2020.

**Figure 2. Weekly episode-based incidence rates by HA and health service delivery area (HSDA), BC March 1, 2020 (week 10) – December 5, 2020 (week 49)**



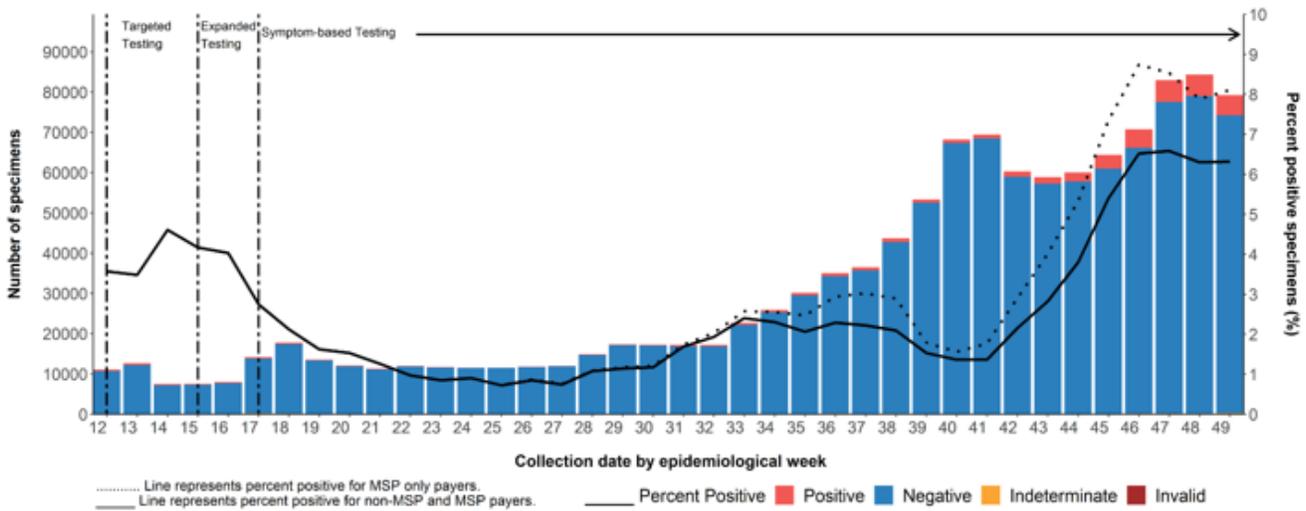
**B. Test rates and percent positive**

In BC, laboratory-based surveillance captures mostly symptom-based diagnostic testing conducted under the Medical Service Plan (MSP) funding scheme, as well as any non-MSP funded screening tests. As shown by the bars in [Figure 3](#), the total weekly number of respiratory specimens, both MSP and non-MSP funded, were around 80,000 in weeks 48 and 49.

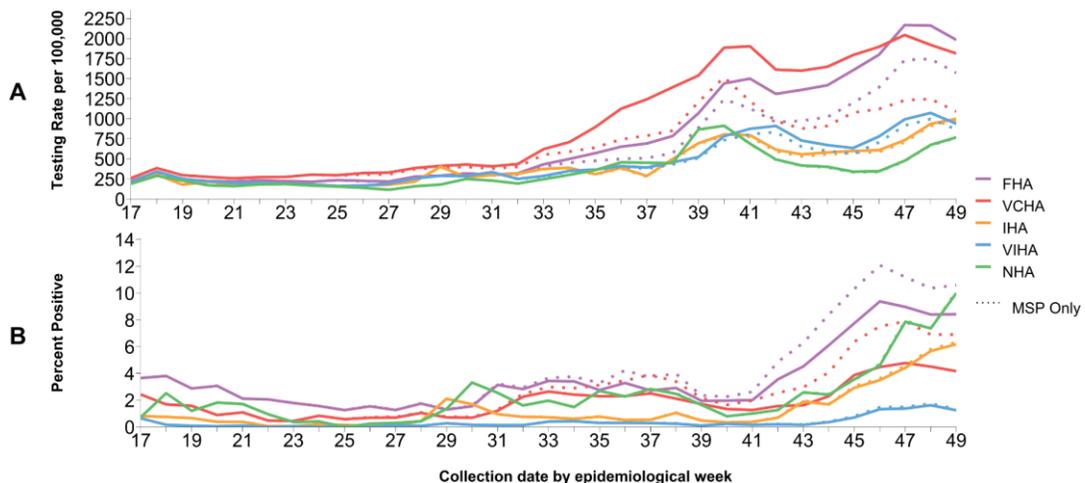
Screening tests have a lower likelihood of testing SARS-CoV-2 positive (i.e. percent positivity) than symptom-based diagnostic testing; therefore, including screening specimens will tend to lower the overall percent positivity indicator and the impact of that will be greater when more screening specimens are included. Figures below therefore present percent positivity based on all (MSP and non-MSP funded) specimens and separately based on MSP-funded specimens only.

As shown in [Figure 3](#), percent positivity showed steady increase from week 41-46, evident based on all specimens (solid line: 1.4% to 6.5%) and more steeply for MSP-funded specimens only (dotted line: 1.8% to 8.7%). In weeks 48 and 49, percent positivity plateaued based on all specimens (6.3% in both weeks) and based on MSP-funded specimens only (7.9% and 8.1%, respectively). As shown in [Panel A of Figure 4](#), the per capita testing rate in week 49 was highest in FHA and VCHA. As shown in [Panel B](#), percent positivity for MSP-funded specimens was highest in FHA at 10.6% and NHA at 10.1%, followed by VCHA at 6.9% and IHA at 6.3%, lowest in VIHA at 1.4%. In NHA, positivity increased from week 47 (8%), but elsewhere was relatively stable.

**Figure 3. Number of specimens tested and percent SARS-CoV-2 positive, by collection week, BC March 15, 2020 (week 12) – December 5, 2020 (week 49)<sup>a</sup>**



**Figure 4. Testing rates and percent SARS-CoV-2 positive by health authority and collection week, BC March 15, 2020 (week 12) – December 5, 2020 (week 49)<sup>a</sup>**



a. PLOVER extract on Thursday, December 10, 2020.  
 BCCDC COVID-19 Situational Report Week 49

**C. Age profile – Testing and cases**

Testing rates by age group

As shown by the coloured bars in [Figure 5](#), testing rates in week 49 compared to prior weeks 38-48 of Phase 3b were lower in children <15 years old, but higher in all other age groups. The highest testing rates in week 49 were among adults 20-39 years, similar to weeks 38-48 of Phase 3b.

Percent positivity by age group

As shown by the dots in [Figure 5](#), the percent positivity in week 49 remains elevated and was substantially higher than prior weeks 38-48 of Phase 3b whether based on all specimens (black dots) or restricted to MSP specimens only (grey dots). With restriction to MSP specimens only, percent positivity was lowest in children 0-9 years (4.9%) and 10-14 years (7.6%), but otherwise exceeded 8% in all other age groups, highest in elderly adults 80+ years old (9.1%).

Case distribution by age group

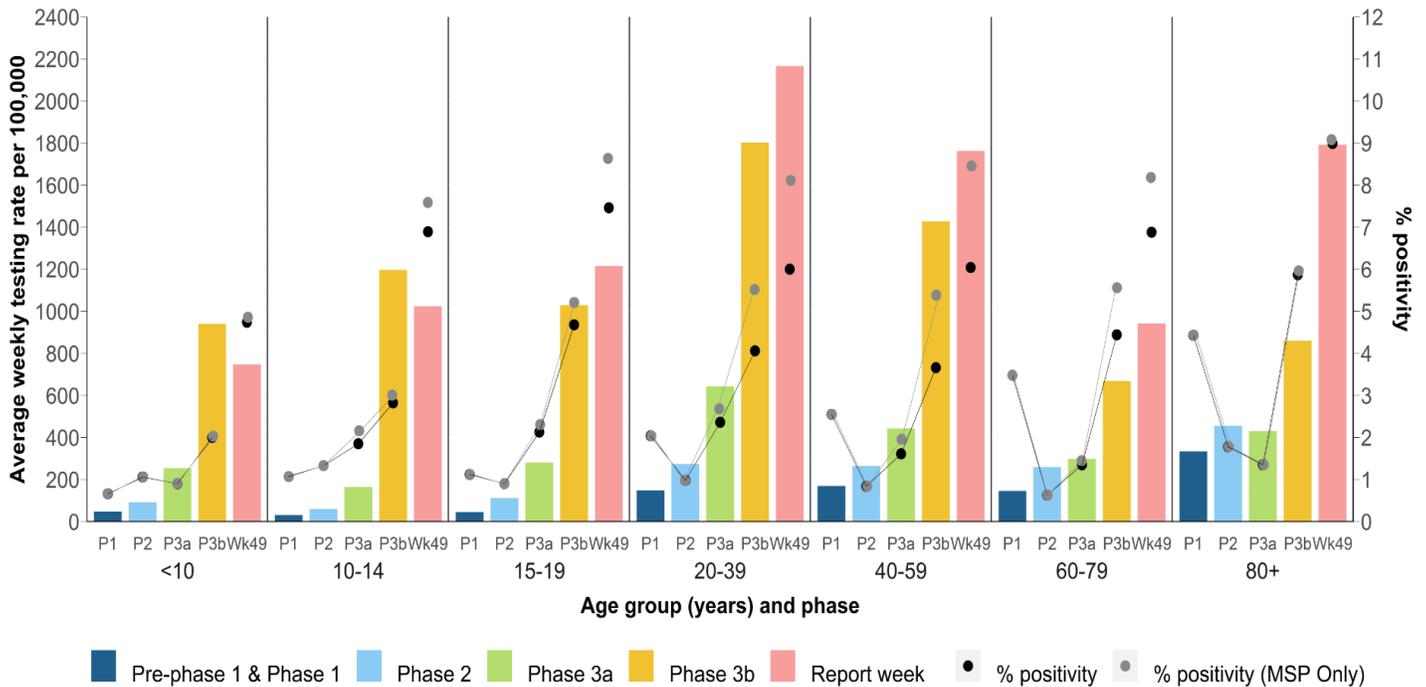
As shown in [Figure 6](#) and [Figure 7](#), compared to weeks 38-48 of Phase 3b, in week 49 older adults 80+ years contributed more (4% vs. 7%, respectively), while adults 20-39 years contributed less (42% vs. 36%, respectively). The percentage contribution of other age groups was otherwise relatively stable.

Weekly incidence by age group

As shown in [Figure 8](#) incidence in all age groups in week 49 remained elevated but with signs of decrease compared to recent prior weeks. As compared to prior bulletins the difference in incidence between current week 49 and all prior weeks 38-48 of Phase 3b shown in [Figure 9](#) is narrowing for each year of age, with the exception of the very old. In week 49, and of particular concern, incidence remains highest in elderly adults 80+ years (123 per 100K), 18 times higher than in week 38 (7 per 100K). Incidence was next highest in adults 20-29 years (118 per 100K), 4 times higher than week 38 (30 per 100K).

Median age of cases across the pandemic is 37 years: 52 years in Pre-/Phase 1; 40 years in Phase 2; 33 years in Phase 3a; 36 years for prior weeks 38-48 of Phase 3b (excluding week 49) and 39 years in week 49 (not shown).

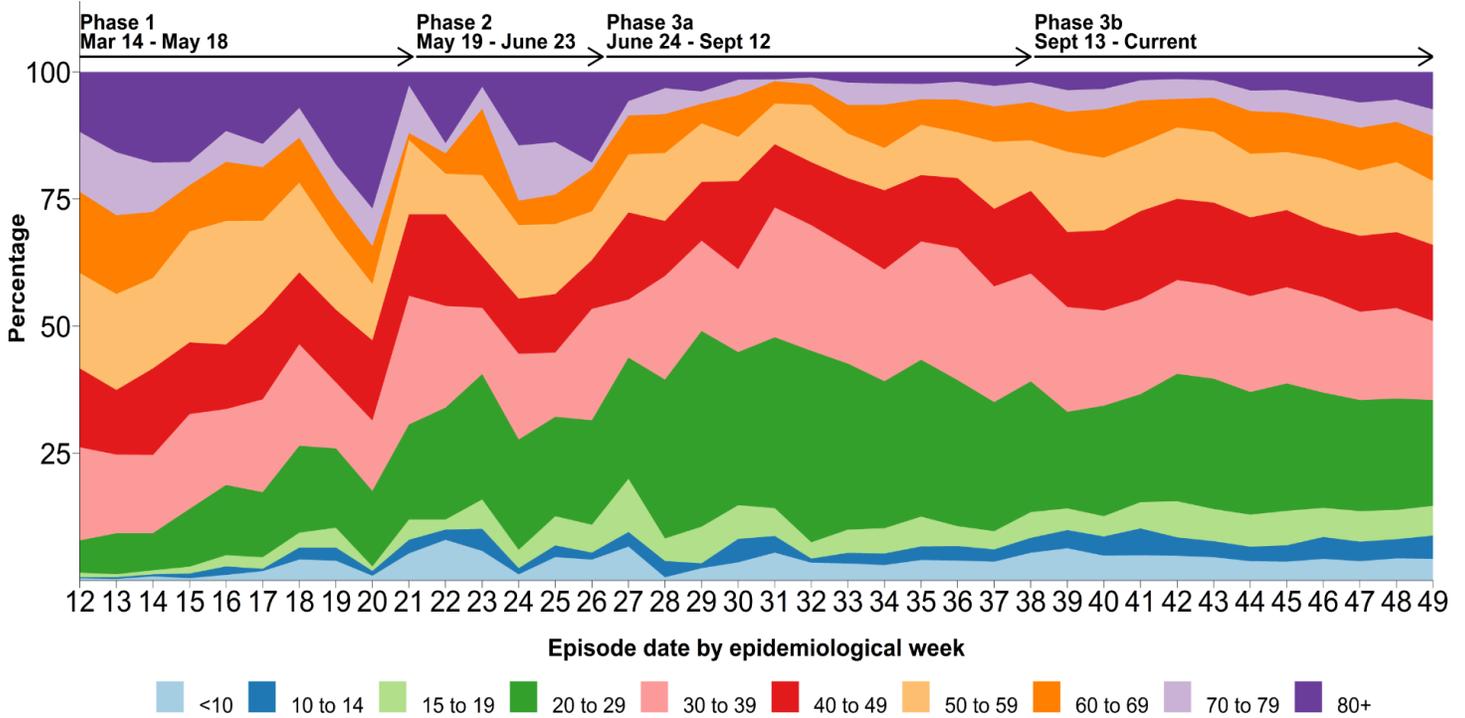
**Figure 5. Average weekly SARS-CoV-2 testing rates and percent positive by known age group and phase<sup>a</sup>, BC January 20, 2020 (week 4) – December 5, 2020 (week 49)<sup>b</sup>**



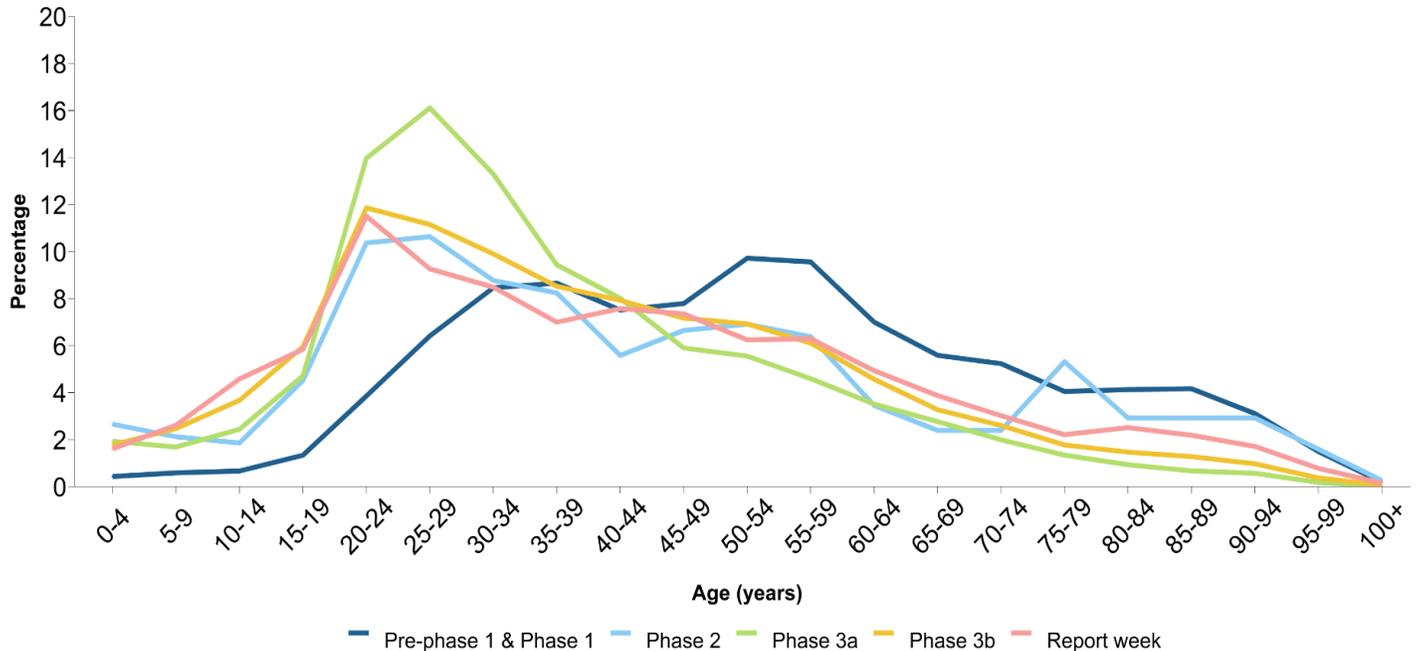
a. Phase based on specimen collection date, of which January 20 was the earliest. The average weekly rate by phase is derived as the phase-specific per capita test rate divided by the number of weeks for Pre-Phase 1 + Phase 1 (P1: 17 weeks), Phase 2 (P2: 5 weeks), Phase 3a (P3a: 11.5 weeks), and Phase 3b, excluding the current report week (P3b: 11 weeks). The current report week, although part of Phase 3b, is excluded from Phase 3b as displayed here to enable comparison.

b. Laboratory extract from PLOVER on December 10, 2020. Testing rates displayed are based on all specimens (MSP and non-MSP).

**Figure 6. COVID-19 case distribution by known age group (years) and episode date, BC March 15, 2020 (week 12) – December 5, 2020 (week 49) (N= 38,786)<sup>a</sup>**

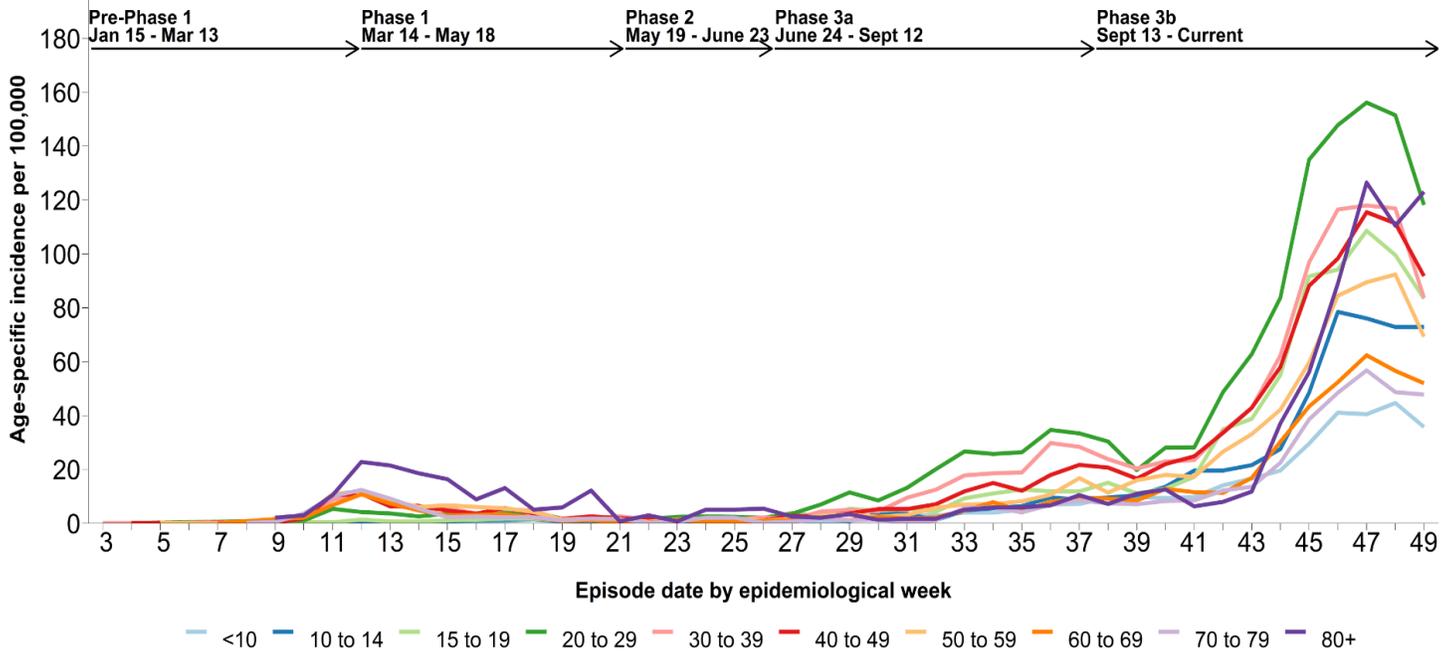


**Figure 7. COVID-19 case distribution by known age group (years) for pandemic phases and current report week<sup>b</sup>, BC January 15, 2020 (week 3) – December 5, 2020 (week 49) (N= 38,786)<sup>a</sup>**

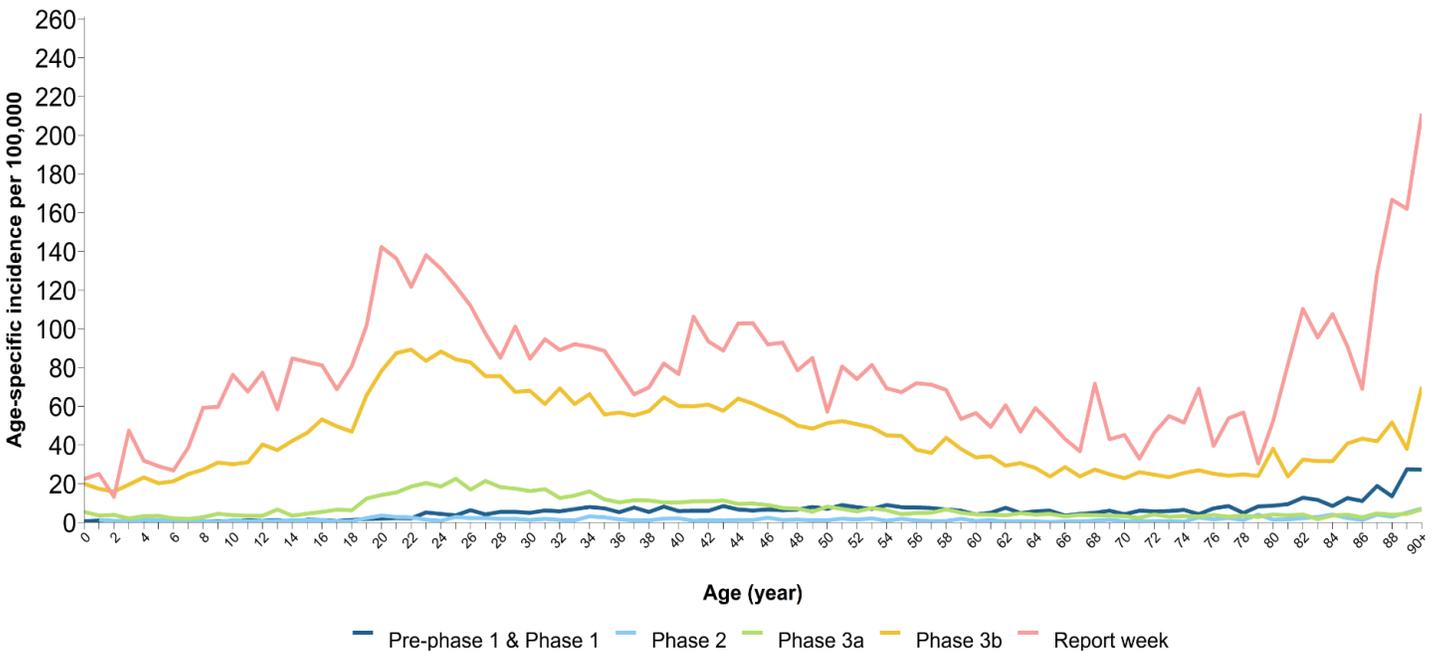


a. Among those with available age information only.  
 b. The current report week, although part of Phase 3b, is excluded from derivations across prior weeks of Phase 3b to enable comparison, as displayed.

**Figure 8. Weekly age-specific incidence per 100K population by epidemiological week, BC January 15, 2020 (week 3) – December 5, 2020 (week 49) (N= 38,786)<sup>a</sup>**



**Figure 9. Average weekly incidence per 100K population by single year of age for pandemic phases 3a and 3b and current report week 46<sup>b</sup>, BC January 15, 2020 (week 3) – December 5, 2020 (week 49) (N= 38,786)<sup>a</sup>**



a. Among those with available age information only.  
 b. The current report week, although part of Phase 3b, is excluded from derivations across prior weeks of Phase 3b to enable comparison, as displayed.

### D. Severe outcome counts and epi-curve

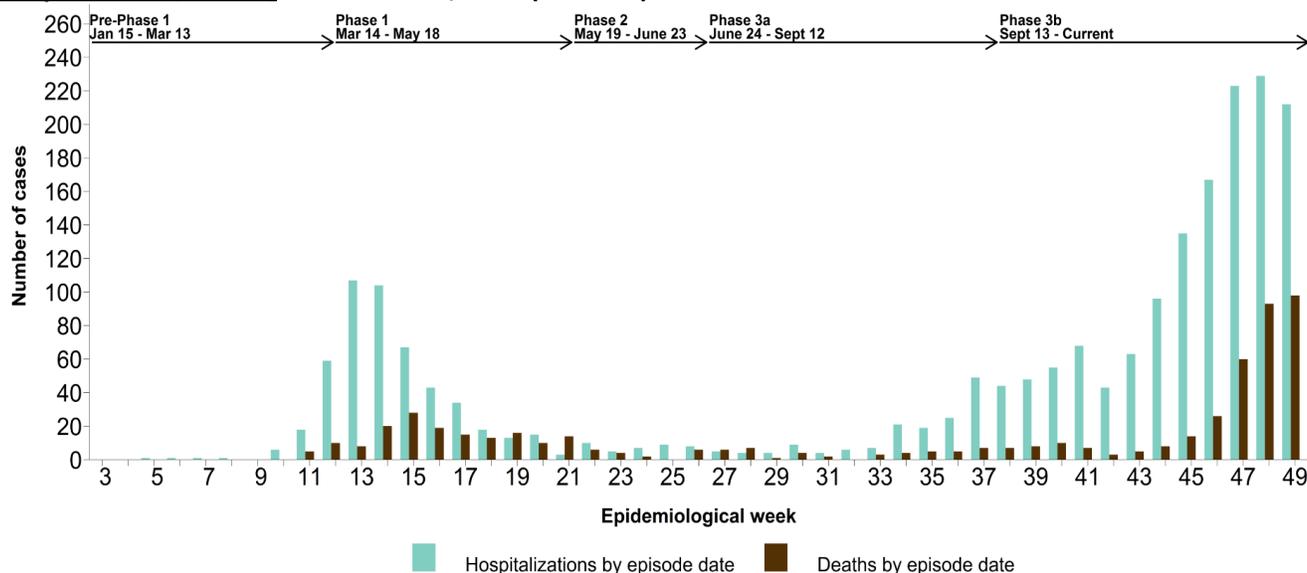
The tally of severe COVID-19 outcomes by pandemic phase is shown in [Table 1](#) and by week in [Figure 10](#). Whereas hospitalizations increased steadily from weeks 41- 46 (from 68 to 167 per week), the number of hospitalizations remained elevated but stable in weeks 47 (223) and 48 (229), showing slight decrease in week 49 (212), which is about double the first wave peak of 107 hospitalizations in week 13. The number of deaths per week also increased substantially from weeks 41-46 (from 7 to 26 per week), with continued increase in weeks 47 (60) and 48 (93) and further slight increase in week 49 (98), which is about triple the first wave peak of 28 deaths in week 15. In week 49, 79/98 (81%) deaths were associated with a care facility outbreak and 93/98 (95%) were 70+ years old. Of the 559 total deaths in BC to date, 398 (71%) were associated with a care facility outbreak and 496 (89%) were 70+ years old. Overall, males comprise 19,748/38,747 (51%) cases, 1,210/2,063 (59%) hospitalizations, 320/520 (62%) ICU admissions, and 313/559 (56%) deaths to date (not shown).

**Table 1. COVID-19 severe outcomes by episode date, health authority of residence, and phase, BC January 15, 2020 (week 3) – December 5, 2020 (week 49)**

Health authority of residence:	FHA	IHA	VIHA	NHA	VCHA	Outside Canada	Total n/N (%)
<b>Ever Hospitalized</b>	<b>1,222</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>597</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2,066/38,851 (5)<sup>a</sup></b>
Pre-Phase 1 & Phase 1 (17 weeks)	245	29	25	12	176	2	489/2,066 (24)
Phase 2 (5 weeks)	26	1	0	2	6	1	36/2,066 (2)
Phase 3a (11.5 weeks)	100	5	0	11	40	2	158/2,066 (8)
Phase 3b (11 weeks, excluding week 49)	722	43	11	64	329	2	1,171/2,066 (57)
Week 49	129	10	6	20	46	1	212/2,066 (10)
<b>Ever ICU</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>520/38,851 (1)<sup>a</sup></b>
Pre-Phase 1 & Phase 1 (17 weeks)	76	13	9	7	67	1	173/520 (33)
Phase 2 (5 weeks)	6	0	0	1	2	0	9/520 (2)
Phase 3a (11.5 weeks)	26	1	0	7	15	1	50/520 (10)
Phase 3b (11 weeks, excluding week 49)	130	11	2	32	65	0	240/520 (46)
Week 49	32	4	1	6	5	0	48/520 (9)
<b>Deaths</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>559/38,851 (1)<sup>a</sup></b>
Pre-Phase 1 & Phase 1 (17 weeks)	55	2	5	0	84	0	146/559 (26)
Phase 2 (5 weeks)	22	0	0	0	6	0	28/559 (5)
Phase 3a (11.5 weeks)	20	0	0	1	25	0	46/559 (8)
Phase 3b (11 weeks, excluding week 49)	138	1	1	7	94	0	241/559 (43)
Week 49	68	3	1	1	25	0	98/559 (18)

a. Cases with unknown outcome are included in the denominators (i.e. assumed not to have the specified severe outcome).

**Figure 10. COVID-19 hospitalization admissions (n= 2,066) and deaths (n= 559) by episode date<sup>a</sup>, BC January 15, 2020 (week 3) – December 5, 2020 (week 49)**



a. Note that in previous reports this figure was displayed only using available admission and death dates. With this week's report, data are displayed by episode date (i.e. date of hospital admission or date of death, and if those dates are missing, then report date).

**E. Age profile, severe outcomes**

As shown in [Table 2](#) and [Figure 11](#), adults 70+ years comprise 10% of COVID-19 cases, commensurate with their share of the general population of BC (13%), but are greatly over-represented among hospitalizations (44%) and deaths (89%).

Older adults 60-69 years comprise 8% of COVID-19 cases, and a greater proportion of hospitalizations (17%) but a commensurate proportion of deaths (7%) relative to their share of the BC population (13%).

Adults 40-59 years comprise 28% of COVID-19 cases and 24% of hospitalizations, which is commensurate with their share of the BC population (27%), but they are under-represented among COVID-19 deaths (4%).

Adults 20-39 years comprise a greater share of COVID-19 cases (42%) than their share of the BC population (28%), but are under-represented among COVID-19 hospitalizations (12%) and deaths (<1%).

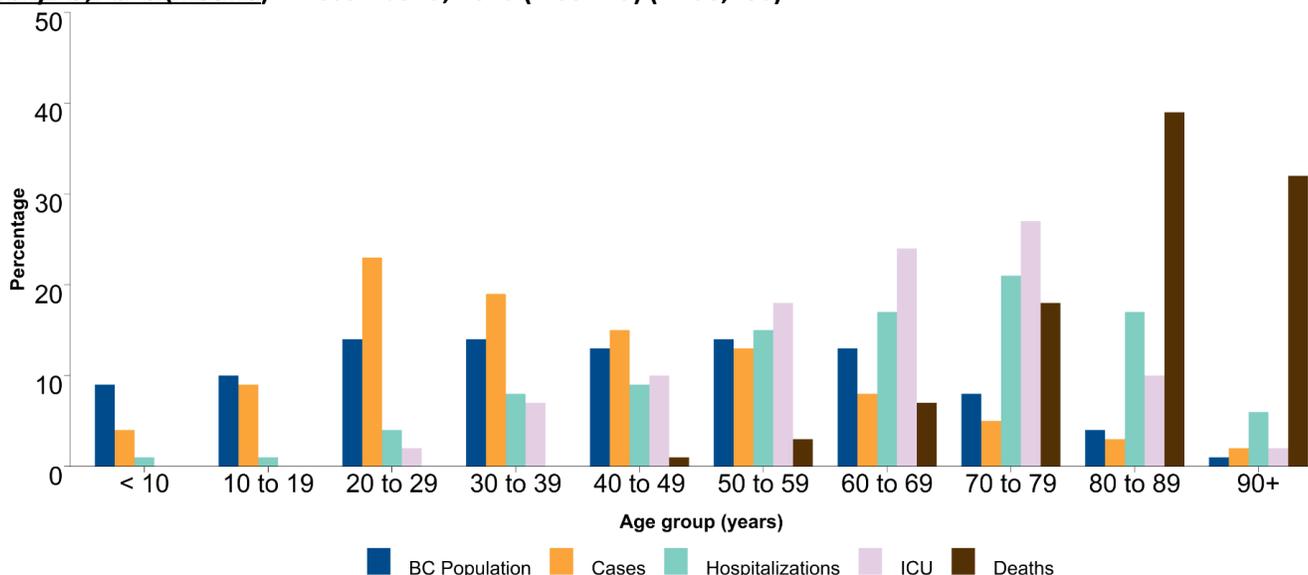
Children <20 years are under-represented overall among COVID-19 cases (13%) as well as severe outcomes (2% or less), relative to their share of the BC general population (19%).

Median age after vs. before Phase 3a is younger for hospitalizations (65 vs. 69 years) but similar for deaths (86 vs. 85 years).

**Table 2. Age distribution<sup>a</sup>: COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, ICU admissions, deaths and BC population January 15, 2020 (week 3) – December 5, 2020 (week 49)**

Age group (years)	Cases n (%)	Hospitalizations n (%)	ICU n (%)	Deaths n (%)	General BC population n (%)
<10	1,539 (4)	20 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	469,351 (9)
10-19	3,446 (9)	15 (1)	0 (0)	0 (0)	527,805 (10)
20-29	8,869 (23)	90 (4)	11 (2)	0 (0)	697,691 (14)
30-39	7,217 (19)	169 (8)	35 (7)	1 (<1)	735,052 (14)
40-49	5,796 (15)	193 (9)	51 (10)	6 (1)	646,035 (13)
50-59	5,062 (13)	317 (15)	96 (18)	15 (3)	718,272 (14)
60-69	3,124 (8)	352 (17)	123 (24)	41 (7)	673,131 (13)
70-79	1,821 (5)	441 (21)	142 (27)	99 (18)	435,062 (8)
80-89	1,244 (3)	347 (17)	54 (10)	219 (39)	187,443 (4)
90+	668 (2)	121 (6)	8 (2)	178 (32)	49,726 (1)
<b>Total</b>	<b>38,786</b>	<b>2,065</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>5,139,568</b>
<b>Median age</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>41</b>

**Figure 11. COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, ICU admissions and deaths by age group, BC January 15, 2020 (week 3) – December 5, 2020 (week 49) (N=38,786)<sup>a</sup>**



a. Among those with available age information only.

### F. Likely sources of infection

As shown in [Table 3](#) and [Figure 12](#), local contact with a known case or cluster has most often been considered the source of infection across all pandemic phases to date.

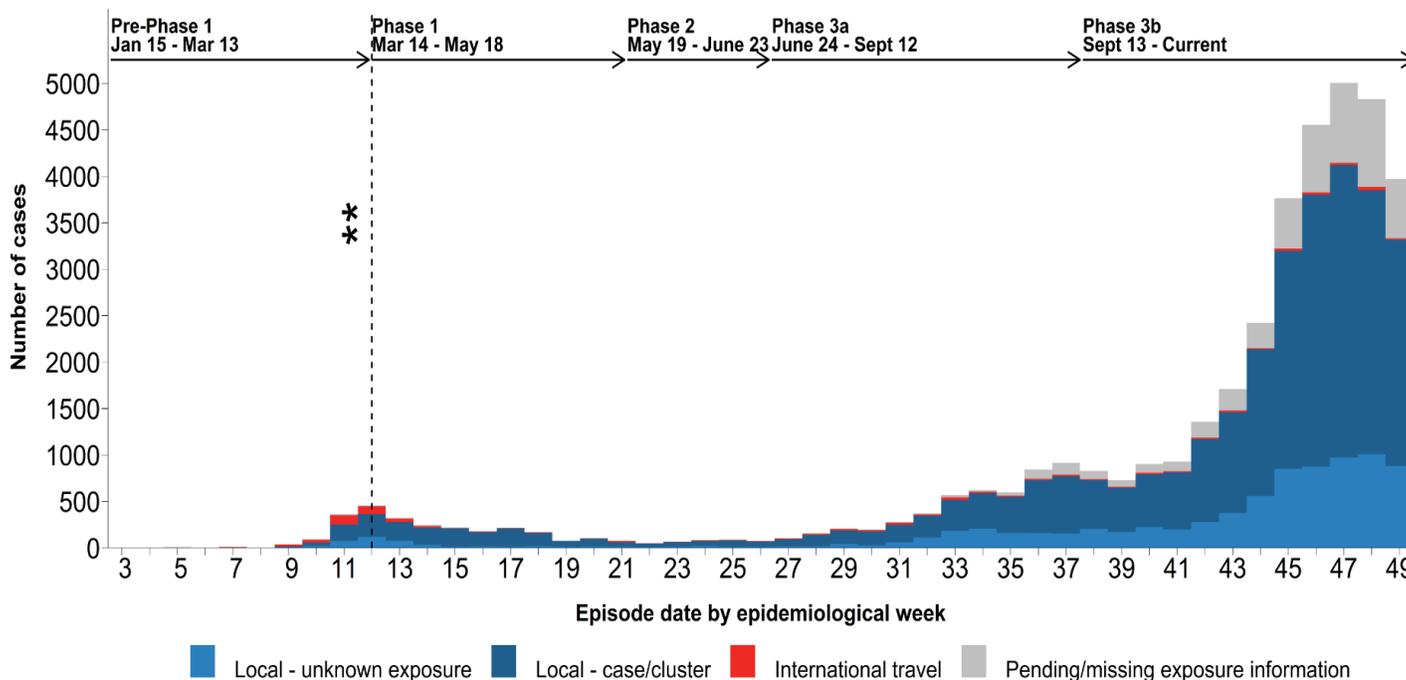
Prior to Phase 1, international travel was also a frequently cited source of SARS-CoV-2 infection in part reflecting high risk testing that targeted returning travelers. However, travel-related restrictions introduced in Phase 1 limited that contribution thereafter with clusters, such as in care facility settings, becoming a more prominent source.

Since around mid-Phase 3a more cases have cited unknown local exposure or that information remained pending or missing. International travel has been cited less often since Phase 3b and these patterns have been generally maintained through week 49 during which international travel was cited <1%.

**Table 3. Likely source of COVID-19 infection by pandemic phase of episode date, British Columbia January 15, 2020 (week 3) – December 5, 2020 (week 49)**

Phase n (row %)	International travel	Local – case/cluster	Local - unknown	Pending/missing
Pre-Phase 1	135 (29)	214 (47)	97 (21)	14 (3)
Phase 1	188 (9)	1,504 (72)	346 (17)	43 (2)
Phase 2	30 (8)	262 (70)	82 (22)	2 (1)
Phase 3a	181 (4)	3,237 (66)	1,155 (23)	343 (7)
Phase 3b (excluding week 49)	206 (1)	17,004 (63)	5,727 (21)	4,110 (15)
Week 49	17 (<1)	2,433 (61)	883 (22)	638 (16)
<b>Total</b>	<b>757 (2)</b>	<b>24,654 (63)</b>	<b>8,290 (21)</b>	<b>5,150 (13)</b>

**Figure 12. Likely source of COVID-19 infection by episode date, British Columbia January 15, 2020 (week 3) – December 5, 2020 (week 49)**



\*\* March 16: Travel related restrictions introduced.

### G. Care facility outbreaks

As shown in [Table 4](#) and [Figure 13](#), 216 care facility outbreaks were reported in total in BC to the end of week 49. There were 15 new care facility outbreaks reported in week 49 (9 of which were reported by FHA, 3 by VIHA, 2 by IHA, and 1 by VCHA), with 12 of these outbreaks having earliest onset date in preceding weeks. Facility outbreak tallies by earliest onset date are highest thus far in week 46 (26 outbreaks).

Seventy-seven of the 79 deaths in total reported in week 49 in BC involved adults in a care facility setting in Fraser Health Authority (54 deaths) or Vancouver Coastal Health Authority (23 deaths). Of the 77 deaths, 74 were elderly adults 70+ years.

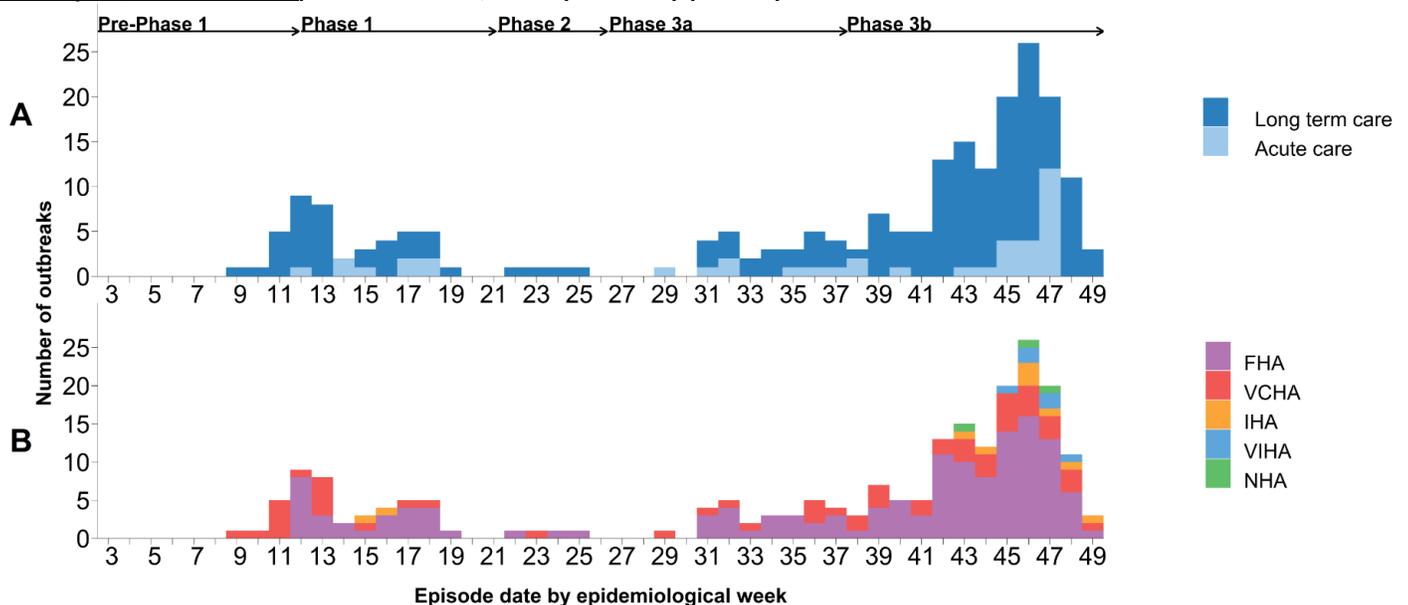
Of 31,018 cases overall in BC with episode date in Phase 3b (i.e. weeks 38-49), 2,117 (7%) were associated with a care facility outbreak, a proportion slightly higher than Phase 3a overall (185/4,916; 4%), but lower than before Phase 3a (602/2,917; 21%).

More than two-thirds of all COVID-19 deaths in BC have been associated with care facility outbreaks (398/559; 71%). Of those 398 facility outbreak-associated deaths, more than half have occurred since the week 38 start of Phase 3b (238; 60%).

**Table 4. COVID-19 care facility outbreaks<sup>a</sup> and associated cases and deaths by phase of episode date, BC January 15, 2020 (week 3) – December 5, 2020 (week 49) (N=216)**

	Outbreaks	Cases				Deaths			
		Residents	Staff/visitors	Unknown	Total	Residents	Staff/visitors	Unknown	Total
<b>Total</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>1,741</b>	<b>1,150</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2,904</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>398</b>
Pre-/Phase One (17 weeks)	45	326	207	0	533	96	0	0	96
Phase 2 (5 weeks)	4	51	18	0	69	25	0	0	25
Phase 3a (11.5 weeks)	27	92	93	0	185	39	0	0	39
Phase 3b (11 weeks, excluding week 49)	137	972	677	12	1,661	159	0	0	159
Week 49	3	300	155	1	456	79	0	0	79
Active outbreaks <sup>b</sup>	72	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Outbreaks declared over <sup>b</sup>	144	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

**Figure 13. COVID-19 care facility outbreaks<sup>a</sup> by earliest case onset<sup>c</sup>, facility type (A) and health authority<sup>d</sup> (B), BC January 15, 2020 (week 3) – December 5, 2020 (week 49) (N=216)**



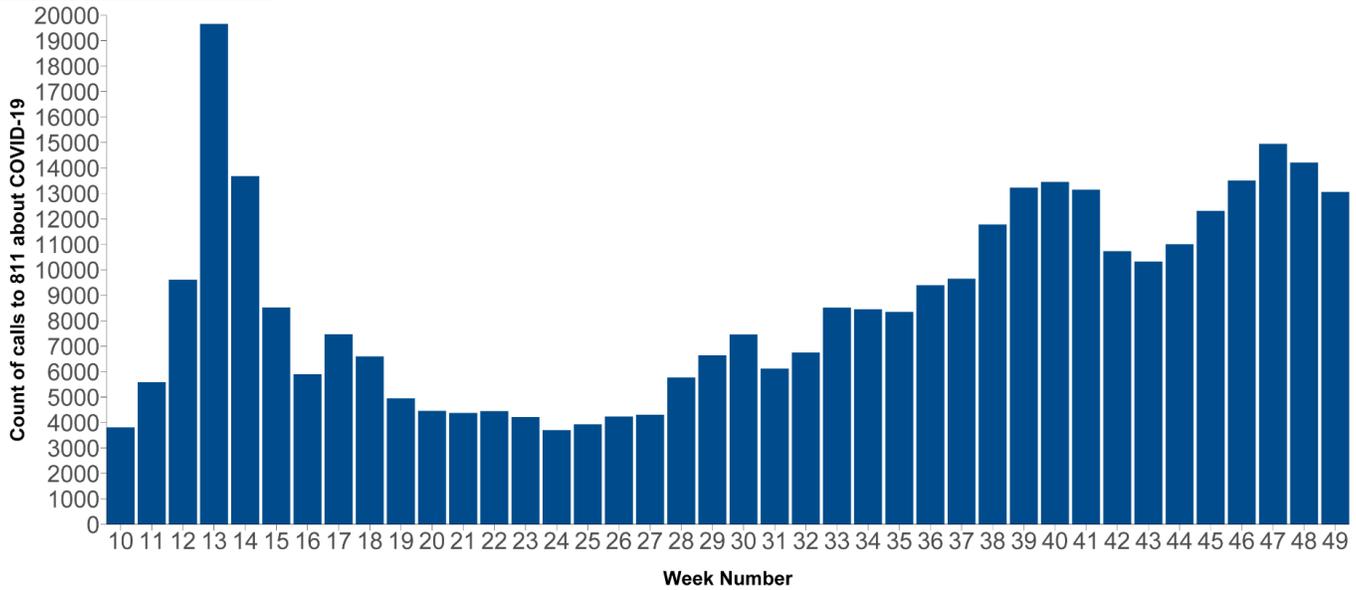
a. Long term care facilities include: group homes (community living), independent living, assisted living, and other residential facilities. Care facility (acute/long-term care/independent living) outbreaks have at least one lab-confirmed COVID-19 staff or resident.  
 b. As of December 5, 2020  
 c. Earliest dates of onset of outbreak cases are subject to change as investigations and data are updated.  
 d. FHA=Fraser; VCHA=Vancouver Coastal; IHA=Interior; VIHA=Vancouver Island; NHA=Northern Health Authorities

## H. Clinical indicators

HealthLink calls ([Figure 14](#)) related to COVID-19 have shown an overall increasing trend from week 32 to 40 at ~13,500 calls per week but decreasing in later weeks reaching just over 10,000 calls in week 43. Calls have gradually increased thereafter, to ~15,000 calls in week 47, to later decrease to ~13,000 in week 49.

BC Medical Services Plan (MSP) general practitioner claims ([Figure 15](#)) related to COVID-19 (including telehealth billings) showed slight increase from week 37 reaching >5,000 visits in week 40 but decreasing thereafter to around 3,300 visits in weeks 42 and 43. Visits then gradually increased reaching >6,000 visits in week 48. There were 4,931 visits reported in week 49.

**Figure 14. HealthLink BC calls related to COVID-19, BC  
March 1, 2020 (week 10) – December 5, 2020 (week 49)**



**Figure 15. Medical Service Plan (MSP) claims (including telehealth billings) for COVID-19, BC  
March 1, 2020 (week 10) – December 5, 2020 (week 49)**

