

LATEST UPDATE – Jan. 22, 2021

In an effort to keep our community partners connected, we are providing you with regular COVID-19 updates.

Ministry of Health Update

In yesterday's joint statement on B.C.'s COVID-19 response, Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, reported a total of 564 new cases new COVID-19 cases for the province. The total number of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in B.C. now stands at 62,976 since the start of the pandemic. There were 111 new cases reported in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region. There are 4,450 active cases of COVID-19 across B.C. currently.

Across the province, there have been 15 new COVID-19 related deaths, while 309 people are currently hospitalized, with 68 of these cases receiving treatment in ICU/critical care. The total number of individuals who have passed away due to COVID-19 is 1,119.

COVID-19 Vaccination Update and the Vaccination Rollout Plan

Since the start of immunizations, 104,901 doses of COVID-19 vaccine in BC have been delivered, 1,663 of which are second doses.

This morning, the COVID-19 vaccine rollout plan was released, with additional details and timelines for the most complex immunization plan to ever roll out in BC. The plan will see approximately 7.4 million doses of vaccine administered to every British Columbian who is eligible and wants to receive it between April and the end of September.

BC's four-phased COVID-19 Immunization Plan is based on scientific evidence, as well as expert advice and guidance from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization, B.C.'s Immunization Committee and B.C.'s public health leadership committee. The plan, which got underway in December 2020, starts by first immunizing those who are most vulnerable to severe illness and death, including long-term care residents and the health-care workers who care for them, remote and at-risk Indigenous communities, and seniors.

COVID-19 Immunization Plan			
Phase 1 Dec 2020-Feb 2021	Phase 2 Feb-March 2021	Phase 3 April-June 2021	Phase 4 July-Sept 2021
High-risk population		General population	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents, staff, and essential visitors to long-term care and assisted living Individuals assessed for/awaiting long-term care Hospital health care workers who may provide care for COVID-19 patients Remote and isolated Indigenous communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seniors aged 80+ who are not yet immunized Indigenous seniors aged 65+, Elders, and additional communities not yet immunized Hospital staff, community GPs and medical specialists not yet immunized Vulnerable populations in select congregated settings Staff in community home support and nursing services for seniors 	People aged 79 to 60, in five year increments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 79 to 75 74 to 70 69 to 65 64 to 60 People aged 69 to 16 who are clinically extremely vulnerable	People aged 59 to 18, in five year increments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 59 to 55 54 to 50 49 to 45 44 to 40 39 to 35 34 to 30 29 to 25 24 to 18
		Once more vaccines are approved/available, people 64 to 18 yrs who are front-line essential workers or work in specific workplaces/industries may be included later in Phase 3.	
The timeline for BC's COVID-19 Immunization Plan may change based on vaccine availability.			COVID-19 IN BC

Phase 1 has had more than 103,000 people in B.C. receiving their first dose of vaccine and second doses are underway. Phase 2, starting in late February, expands immunizations to additional vulnerable populations, Indigenous communities and Elders, health-care staff and all seniors over the age of 80. Together, these two phases are focused on people who are most at risk.

As age is the single greatest risk factor for severe illness and death, Phase 3, starting in April, will expand to include people between the ages of 79 to 75 and work backwards in five-year increments to include those age

60 and over. Also included in this phase are people with certain underlying health conditions that make them clinically extremely vulnerable.

Phase 4 is anticipated to begin in July 2021 for the rest of the eligible population, starting with people aged 59 to 55 and working backwards in five-year age groups until everyone over the age of 18 who wants a COVID-19 vaccine receives it.

Beginning mid to late February, work will be done to reach out to eligible seniors and First Nations to explain the pre-registration process and access to the vaccine.

Starting in March, pre-registration for the vaccine will begin to open online and by phone for the general public, starting with those aged 79 to 75. Those who are considered “clinically extremely vulnerable” will receive their immunization beginning in April. People who are pre-registered will get a reminder to book their appointment as soon as they are eligible. Additional details on the registration process, registration timing and availability and immunization clinic locations will be available in the coming weeks.

To support mass vaccination beginning in April, vaccination clinics across 172 communities will be established by the health authorities in partnership with municipalities. In addition, there will be mobile sites and home visits for those unable to go to a clinic. Details about these clinics will be made available before this vaccination phase begins.

Dr. Bonnie Henry said the goal of the vaccination program is to achieve community or herd immunity. If you would like more information on the vaccination program, the news release can be found [here](#) and more details on all four phases of the plan including a timeline by age can be found [here](#).

Interprovincial Travel

Yesterday, Premier John Horgan released a statement saying a review of our legal options made it clear the province can't prevent people from travelling to British Columbia. Restrictions can be imposed on people travelling for non-essential purposes if they are causing harm to the health and safety of British Columbians. Much of current interprovincial travel is work related and therefore cannot be restricted. What is most important is for everyone to obey health orders, wherever they are, rather than imposing mobility rules. Therefore, the province will not be imposing travel restrictions at this time.

The Premier also said if we see an increase in transmission due to interprovincial travel, the province will impose stronger restrictions on non-essential travellers. And the government will continue to work with the tourism and hospitality sectors to make sure all possible safety precautions are in place.

The Premier's full statement can be seen [here](#).

COVID-19 Recovery Clinics

British Columbians recovering from COVID-19 now have access to three post-COVID-19 recovery clinics at Vancouver General Hospital, St. Paul's Hospital and the Jim Pattison Outpatient Care and Surgery Centre in Surrey. Minister of Health Adrian Dix said some people who recover from COVID-19 experience long-term health effects. More information can be found [here](#).

The clinics provide an opportunity for patients to receive specialized care and allow for specialists to further understand the long-term adverse effects of COVID-19. The clinics connect patients with a network of specialists, allied health professionals and subspecialists through a mix of on-site and telehealth appointments.

VCH Website and Translation Engagement

Many thanks to everyone who has been involved in our two important projects – the redesign of the VCH website and review of VCH translation practices. Your input in the web design project and translation needs at VCH for safe care will help us improve our translation tools and ensure our future website is a user-friendly resource that is easy to navigate. We have launched a survey for the two projects, and would like to receive input from the diverse communities we serve. Please, feel free to distribute widely. The survey is also available in Simplified Chinese, Traditional Chinese, Punjabi and Farsi. To complete the survey, go to:

<https://survey.givingopinions.ca/vch>

Testing

Anyone in the VCH region with cold, influenza or COVID-19-like symptoms, however mild, can now be assessed for and get a COVID-19 test. Contact your physician or nurse practitioner's office, or a local community collection centre to arrange for a test. Phone numbers and locations of collection centres can be found by visiting: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing> or by calling 8-1-1. For more

information and latest updates on COVID-19, follow the BC Centre for Disease Control on Twitter @CDCofBC or visit the website: <http://www.bccdc.ca/>.

Other Resources

To find the Provincial Health Officer's orders, visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

To see a map of **COVID-19 cases by local health area**, visit: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data>

For a listing of the **community exposure events**, go to: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/public-exposures>

For the **latest medical updates**, including case counts, prevention, risks and testing, visit: <http://www.bccdc.ca/>

For **community engagement opportunities** at VCH, see: <http://cean.vch.ca/members/current-opportunities/>