

LATEST UPDATE – May 4, 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 2,174 new cases over three days:

- Friday to Saturday – 835 new cases
- Saturday to Sunday – 671 new cases
- Sunday to Monday – 668 new cases.

Of the new cases, 438 people were in the Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) region.

The total number of people who have tested positive for COVID-19 in B.C. now stands at 131,656 since the start of the pandemic. There are 7,327 active cases of COVID-19 across B.C. currently.

Across the province, there were 15 new COVID-19 related deaths, while 474 people are currently hospitalized, with 176 of these cases receiving treatment in ICU/critical care. The total number of individuals who have passed away due to COVID-19 is 1,596.

COVID-19 vaccine update

Since the start of immunizations, 1,877,330 doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in B.C., 91,731 of which are second doses. This means about 45 per cent of all eligible British Columbians have been vaccinated.

There is a significant effort this week to get British Columbians to register for their vaccination, especially in the Lower Mainland. So far, 2.1 million people have registered and about 900,000 have had their appointment booked.

Everyone in B.C. who is 18 years or older should register on the Get Vaccinated website or by calling 1-833-838-2323. Registration is required only once. Once you are registered, your dose will be reserved for you, and you will be notified when to book. The focus of the COVID-19 vaccine program is to protect as many people as possible, as quickly as possible, addressing hot spots and reducing overall transmission.

Dr. Henry said we have reached a new, encouraging point in our pandemic response. Starting today, the available vaccine supply will be significantly increasing, and this is good news for all of us.

During the coming month, more than one million vaccine doses will be delivered to our province, with more anticipated for June, giving the vast majority of eligible people access to a vaccine before Canada Day. Dr. Henry also said as increased vaccination shipments continue, the province should be able to reduce the 16-week interval between the two doses. She said she hopes to have more information on that in the coming weeks.

Updated information on who should get a COVID-19 vaccine can be found [here](#) and there is more information about vaccine aftercare [here](#). More information and immunization data is available through this page: [BCCDC](#).

Updates to VCH's implementation of B.C.'s immunization plan

The AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine is available for people born in 1991 and earlier (age 30+). Book directly at a participating pharmacy for an appointment or to join a waitlist. The participating pharmacies are listed on the BC Pharmacy Association [website](#). The list of pharmacies will be updated regularly. Appointments for AstraZeneca cannot be booked through the provincial vaccine appointment booking line.

Provincial registration for a COVID-19 vaccine continues for those born in 2003 or earlier (age 18 years of age and older). Information on how to register for an appointment can be [found here](#). All British Columbians are encouraged to register, even if you have received your first dose. Registering means you will be sent a booking link for your second dose when it's time.

Please check your scheduled appointment date, time and location; arrive on time for your appointment and avoid arriving early. Wear a short-sleeve shirt as the vaccine will be delivered to your upper arm. You will be monitored after receiving your vaccine for 15 minutes.

BC COVID-19 SPEAK Survey

As part of British Columbia's Public Health response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the BCCDC is looking for your support to promote the [BC COVID-19 SPEAK Round 2 Survey](#). We encourage you and those in your networks to participate in this survey to help us examine how British Columbians have been affected one year into the pandemic, and how their experiences may inform recovery and re-opening. The survey is currently open to all British Columbia residents aged 18 years and older until Sunday, May 9, 2021. You can take the survey [here](#).

Resource toolkit:

- **Vaccine safety information:**

[\[English\]](#) | [\[简体中文 Chinese Simplified\]](#) | [\[繁體中文 Chinese Traditional\]](#) | [\[한국어 Korean\]](#) | [\[ਪੰਜਾਬੀ Punjabi\]](#) | [\[Tagalog\]](#)

- **Bilingual COVID-19 vaccine safety posters:**

[\[简体中文 Chinese Simplified\]](#) | [\[繁體中文 Chinese Traditional\]](#) | [\[فارسی Farsi\]](#) | [\[한국어 Korean\]](#) | [\[ਪੰਜਾਬੀ Punjabi\]](#) | [\[Tagalog\]](#)

- **Aftercare information:**

[\[English\]](#) | [\[العربية Arabic\]](#) | [\[American Sign Language - ASL\]](#) | [\[简体中文 Chinese Simplified\]](#) | [\[繁體中文 Chinese Traditional\]](#) | [\[فارسی Farsi\]](#) | [\[Français French\]](#) | [\[한국어 Korean\]](#) | [\[ਪੰਜਾਬੀ Punjabi\]](#) | [\[Español Spanish\]](#) | [\[Tigrinya\]](#) | [\[Tiếng Việt Vietnamese\]](#)

- **COVID-19 vaccine posters:**

[\[English\]](#) | [\[简体中文 Chinese Simplified\]](#) | [\[繁體中文 Chinese Traditional\]](#) | [\[فارسی Farsi\]](#) | [\[한국어 Korean\]](#) | [\[ਪੰਜਾਬੀ Punjabi\]](#) | [\[Tiếng Việt Vietnamese\]](#)

- **VCH website information and Questions & Answers:**

[\[English\]](#) | [\[العربية Arabic\]](#) | [\[简体中文 Chinese Simplified\]](#) | [\[繁體中文 Chinese Traditional\]](#) | [\[فارسی Farsi\]](#) | [\[Français French\]](#) | [\[한국어 Korean\]](#) | [\[ਪੰਜਾਬੀ Punjabi\]](#) | [\[Español Spanish\]](#) | [\[Tagalog\]](#) | [\[Tiếng Việt Vietnamese\]](#)

- **COVID-19 vaccine information sessions hosted by S.U.C.C.E.S.S. and VCH (Cantonese and Mandarin)**
[\[Cantonese\]](#) | [\[Mandarin\]](#)

- **COVID-19 vaccine Q&A with Dr. Ray Chaboyer**
[\[English\]](#)

- **COVID-19 vaccine info session by VCH Chief Medical Health Officer Dr. Patricia Daly**
[\[English\]](#)

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

Find the Provincial Health Officer's orders [here](#).

To see a map of **COVID-19 cases by local health area**, [visit here](#).

For the **latest medical updates**, including case counts, prevention, risks and testing, visit: <http://www.bccdc.ca/>
For **community engagement opportunities** at VCH, see: <https://engage.vch.ca/>