

Joleen Kaminski

From: CLRInfo
Sent: May 7, 2021 8:32 AM
To: Ken McCormack
Cc: Maria Sushkova
Subject: COVID-19 Update - May 7
Attachments: CommunicationsKit_c19VaccineReg.pdf; Online Booking Animation.mp4; C19 Graphic_pfizer-22.png; C19 Graphic_register_now-21.png; image001.png; image002.png; image003.png

Importance: High

[CLR Members,](#)

Please find the important updates on the COVID-19 situation.

[Vaccine program accelerating, people aged 40+ to book next week](#)

As more than 1.2 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine arrive in B.C. communities in May, the Province is stepping up its immunization rollout.

People aged 40 and older will be invited to book as early as next week.

Invitations to book will be sent via text or email for:

- Friday, May 7: 46+ (1975) after 7 p.m. (Pacific time)
- Sunday, May 9: 43+ (1978) after 7 p.m. (Pacific time)
- Tuesday, May 11: 40+ (1981) after 7 p.m. (Pacific time)

People must register through B.C.'s Get Vaccinated system to get an email or text notification prompting them to book an appointment when it is their turn. Anyone who is not registered should register now in one of three ways:

- 24/7, online: <https://gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated>
- through a provincial call centre between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. (Pacific time) at 1 833 838-2323 or
- in person at the nearest Service BC location

Currently, 43% of B.C.'s eligible target population of 4.3 million have received their first dose of vaccine.

To register online, people need:

- their Personal Health Number (found on their CareCard or on the back of a driver's licence or BC Services Card);
- postal code;
- first and last names;
- date of birth; and
- an email address that gets checked regularly or a phone number that can receive text messages.

People who do not have a Personal Health Number can register by phone or in person. Translations are available in over 140 languages over the phone.

Since the Get Vaccinated provincial registration and booking system started on April 6, more than 2.1 million British Columbians have registered.

Learn More:

To learn more about when it is your turn to be immunized, visit: <https://gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated>

For technical immunization information, visit the BC Centre for Disease Control's website: www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine

For more information on what to expect when you go to get vaccinated for COVID-19, visit: www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine/getting-a-vaccine

[Pregnant people in B.C. can get COVID-19 vaccine](#)

All pregnant people who are age 16+ are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccines as a priority population through B.C.'s Immunization Plan.

[Roadside travel checks started in B.C.](#)

Thursday, the B.C. RCMP started setting up COVID-19 travel checkpoints on four highways.

B.C. RCMP spokeswoman Staff Sgt. Janelle Shoihet said the checkpoints would be on Highway 1, near Boston Bar, Hwy. 3 in the Manning Park area, Hwy. 5 north of the Great Bear Snow Shed and Hwy. 99 in the Lillooet area.

Shoihet said there would be notification signage before each road check, with U-turn routes. The RCMP is acting under the Emergency Program Act in banning non-essential travel between the Lower Mainland/Fraser Valley, Vancouver Island and North/Interior due to COVID-19. This travel ban was announced by Premier John Horgan two weeks ago, as the province's third wave of COVID-19 was peaking. It outlaws non-essential travel between health regions and comes with a \$575 fine. The ban is in place until May 25.

[Premier, community leaders working together to get everyone registered](#)

Premier John Horgan reached out to community leaders this week to enlist their help as B.C. calls on all eligible people to register for their COVID-19 vaccine through B.C.'s Get Vaccinated online system.

This week Premier Horgan met virtually with dozens of community leaders – including Lower Mainland mayors, youth, non-profits, business leaders, academics, social media influencers, and faith leaders – to enlist their help in encouraging all community members to register for vaccination, especially in high transmission neighbourhoods.

More than 274,000 of Health Canada-approved doses are expected to be delivered this week to health authorities throughout B.C. – for a total of 1,236,570 over the month of May. Hot spots in Fraser Health and Vancouver Coastal Health are hardest hit with higher case counts, and higher rates of intensive care unit (ICU) visits and hospitalization.

[Health Canada authorizes use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in children 12 to 15 years of age](#)

May 5, Health Canada authorized the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in children 12 to 15 years of age. This is the first COVID-19 vaccine authorized in Canada for use in children.

Health Canada received an application to expand the indication of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine on April 16, 2021. The vaccine was initially authorized for use in people 16 years of age and older on December 9, 2020.

After completing a thorough and independent scientific review of the evidence, the Department has determined that this vaccine is safe and effective at preventing COVID-19 when used in children between 12 and 15 years of age.

Health Canada has placed terms and conditions on this authorization requiring Pfizer-BioNTech to continue providing information to Health Canada on the safety, efficacy and quality of the vaccine in this younger age group to ensure its benefits continue to be demonstrated once it is on the market.

Health Canada is publishing [multiple documents](#) related to this decision, including a high-level summary of the evidence it reviewed.

[WorkSafeBC: Expedited workplace closures – what employers can expect](#)

WorkSafeBC would like to share an important follow-up on the [order of the provincial health officer \(PHO\)](#) from April 11, 2021 that delegated specific powers to WorkSafeBC prevention officers:

“The order provides WorkSafeBC prevention officers the ability to serve a 10-day closure order on an employer with COVID-19 transmission when directed so by a medical health officer. WorkSafeBC’s role is defined and narrow in scope, with no role in deciding which workplaces will be served with a closure order. Questions regarding the closure order itself are referred to the Health Authority Medical Health Officer.

When WorkSafeBC prevention officers deliver a closure order to affected workplaces, they will also help the employer understand their need to review their COVID-19 safety plan and make any necessary changes during the closure period. WorkSafeBC will be available to provide guidance around reviewing and updating COVID-19 safety plans.

Then, once the workplace has re-opened, WorkSafeBC will conduct an inspection to review the employer’s COVID-19 safety plan and ensure the employer is effectively implementing measures to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 in the workplace.

For more information about all aspects of a COVID-19 safety plan, please refer to the following resources:

- [Reviewing and updating your COVID-19 safety plan: A guide for employers](#)
- [COVID-19 safety plan video series: Five steps to developing your COVID-19 safety plan](#)

Reporting COVID-19 exposure claims

As a reminder, employers and workers should continue to report a workplace injury or disease during this time, including those involving a work-related exposure to COVID-19. Contracting COVID-19 in the workplace may be considered a work-related occupational disease, and affected staff members have the right to make a claim and could be eligible for health care and wage-loss benefits.

For information on when and how to report a COVID-19 illness to WorkSafeBC, please visit the [Claims COVID-19 pages on worksafebc.com](#) for information for both workers and employers.”

[WorkSafeBC: COVID-19 and responsibilities of prime contractors on construction sites](#)

WorkSafeBC has also issued the following communication regarding responsibilities of prime contractors on construction sites:

“Construction employers must take necessary precautions to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission and illness to themselves, workers, and others at the workplace. Prime contractors have specific responsibilities for health and safety on a multiple-employer construction site and must ensure all activities are coordinated.

To ensure the health and safety of workers, the prime contractor must make sure that employers have COVID-19 safety plans in place to reduce the risk of transmission in the workplace.

What are the responsibilities of prime contractors for preventing COVID-19 transmission on a construction site with multiple employers? What considerations need to be made to ensure their COVID-19 safety plans are effective? [Frequently asked questions: COVID-19 and responsibilities of prime contractors on construction sites](#) answers these common questions and others, and helps prime contractors to understand and meet their responsibilities as employers.”

Learn more about [COVID-19 in the construction industry](#).

Check [worksafebc.com](#) for more information and resources about COVID-19, as they become available.

[Grant supports jobs for youth facing barriers to employment](#)

Young people with persistent and multiple barriers to employment or education, including youth directly affected by COVID-19, will have better access to services through a new employment program.

The Province is providing Foundry with a one-time grant of \$5.1 million to administer Foundry Works! over the next three years. Foundry Works! is a youth employment program that integrates health and social services.

Foundry Works! is designed to provide integrated and individualized wraparound assistance to youth aged 15 to 24 in B.C., including health, mentoring, education, skills development and job placement services. Foundry Works! will deliver programs and services to youth, who are not employed or involved in an educational program, to help them develop skills, gain paid work experience and eventually transition into the labour market.

Foundry is a provincewide network of integrated health and social services centres where young people can access a variety of wraparound supports and services, including individualized mental health care, substance-use services, primary care and social services, as well as youth and family peer supports.

Quick Facts:

- Over 123,000 young people in B.C., aged 15 to 24, are affected by loss of employment due to COVID-19.
- Foundry services can be found online and in 11 B.C. communities, with another eight centres in development.
- Foundry Works! is expected to support up to 600 individuals each year to improve their employment readiness, social and emotional well-being, and to achieve success in the labour market.
- Foundry Works! is expected to launch provincewide in summer 2021.
- This grant is funded through the Canada-British Columbia Workforce Development Agreement (WDA).

Learn More:

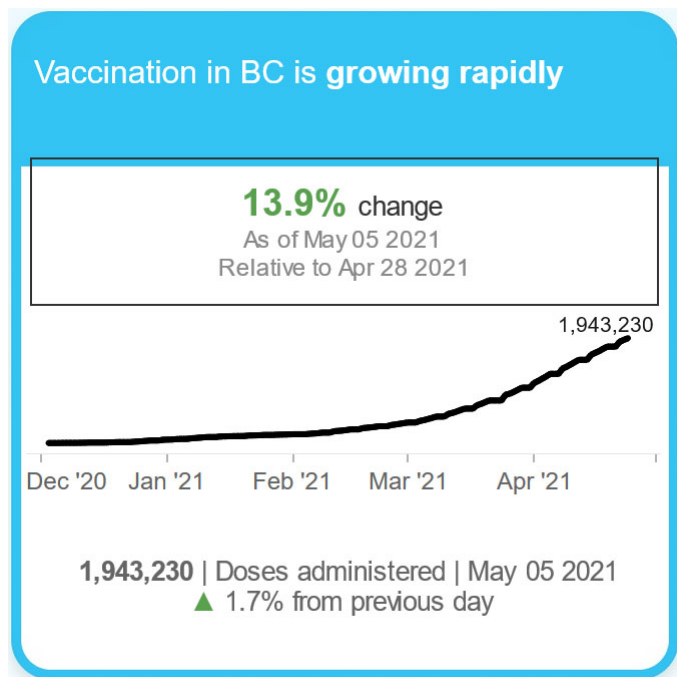
Learn more about Foundry: <https://foundrybc.ca/get-support>

For further details about the launch of Foundry Works! in summer 2021, visit: <https://foundrybc.ca>

Provincial stats

The information below is current as of 3pm on Thursday, May 6, 2021:

- New cases: 694
- Total cases: 133,619
- Deaths in last 24 hours: 1
- Total deaths: 1,595
- Total recoveries: 125,025 (94%)



COVID-19 communication kit resources

As the Province's vaccine supply increases and the vaccination program ramps up, the official COVID-19 communication resources are available to be distributed across communities and workplaces, to help spread useful information about the immunization program.

We have collected a number of effective communication tools that you may consider using. Attached please find the official "Register Now" posters, "Online Booking" animation, and "COVID-19 Vaccines: Register Now" PDF for your reference and further use.

Stay safe.

Ken McCormack | President & CEO



97 Sixth Street,
New Westminster, BC V3L 5H8

O 604-524-4911

F 604-524-3925 **C** 604-968-4911

E kenm@clra-bc.com **W** www.clra-bc.com

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