

Joleen Kaminski

From: CLRInfo
Sent: July 2, 2021 8:23 AM
To: Ken McCormack
Cc: Maria Sushkova
Subject: COVID-19 Update - July 2

Importance: High

[CLR Members,](#)

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

[B.C. shifts to Step 3 of Restart plan](#)

With British Columbians achieving nearly 80% adult Dose 1 vaccine coverage and COVID-19 case counts continuing to decline, the Province moved to Step 3 of its four-step restart plan on July 1, 2021.

Moving to Step 3 signaled the end to the longest provincial state of emergency in B.C.'s history. The emergency was lifted on June 30 at 11:59 p.m.

B.C.'s public health emergency will remain in effect during Step 3 to support amended public health orders from the provincial health officer (PHO), with reduced requirements.

During Step 3, businesses will gradually transition to new communicable disease plans, with guidelines for these plans released by [WorkSafeBC](#) on June 28. These guidelines were developed in consultation with public health and businesses will continue to be supported by WorkSafeBC and the PHO as they transition.

These plans will continue to include physical barriers at many business and retail settings. Capacity limits, formal health screening tests and directional arrows, as well as other physical distancing measures will no longer be required. However, they may still be used during this transition period.

Learn More:

To view the June 29, Step 3 presentation, visit: https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/RestartBC_Step3.pdf

The provincial health officer has laid out travel manners and guidelines for everyone travelling within B.C.:

- getting vaccinated
- pre-trip planning and research before arriving at destination
- respecting any local travel advisories to isolated and remote communities and Indigenous communities
- following mask guidelines
- respecting personal space and practicing good hygiene, including frequent handwashing
- no travelling for anyone who is sick, and if symptoms develop while travelling – self isolate immediately and contact 811 for guidance and testing

To view the June 28, 2021, modelling presentation, visit: http://news.gov.bc.ca/files/6-28_PHO_presentation.pdf

To learn more about BC's Restart – a four-step plan to bring B.C. back together, visit: <https://www.gov.bc.ca/restartbc>

To learn about B.C.'s current travel restrictions, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/covidtravel>

To learn about current PHO restrictions, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/COVIDrestrictions>

[WorkSafeBC: Step 3 of BC's Restart: Communicable disease prevention](#)

In March 2020, when the B.C. government declared a provincial state of emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, WorkSafeBC required employers to develop a COVID-19 Safety Plan that outlined the protocols and policies in place to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in the workplace. Employers were required by order of the provincial health officer to post a copy of these COVID-19 Safety Plans.

As vaccinations have become widely available to British Columbians, the overall risk of COVID-19 transmission is reduced. However, the virus may still circulate, as will the viruses for other communicable diseases, such as seasonal influenza, norovirus, and others.

In Step 3 of the BC's Restart plan, employers are no longer required to maintain a COVID-19 Safety Plan, and can instead transition to communicable disease prevention. To learn more, see the [statement](#) issued by the provincial health officer on June 17 to employers on transitioning from COVID-19 Safety Plans to communicable disease prevention.

New (June 30): Planning template added to employer guide

[Communicable disease prevention: A guide for employers](#) describes a four-step process to help employers reduce the risk of communicable disease in their workplace. WorkSafeBC revised the guide to include a template that may be useful for employers in documenting and communicating their communicable disease prevention measures, practices, and policies. Review the employer guide [here](#).

[Joint statement on B.C.'s COVID-19 response, latest updates](#)

Wednesday, June 30, Dr. Bonnie Henry and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, issued the following joint statement regarding updates on the COVID-19 response in British Columbia:

"Today, we are reporting that 78.4% of all adults in B.C. and 77.1% of those 12 and older have received their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. In addition, 32.8% of all adults in B.C. and 30.6% of those 12 and older have received their second dose.

"In total, 5,002,916 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in B.C., 1,421,506 of which are second doses.

"We have had 44 new cases of COVID-19, for a total of 147,621 cases in British Columbia.

"There are currently 816 active cases of COVID-19 in the province, and a further 145,032 people who tested positive have recovered. Of the active cases, 108 individuals are currently hospitalized, 34 of whom are in intensive care. The remaining people are recovering at home in self-isolation."

Learn More:

BC's Restart plan:

For the June 29, 2021, announcement on Step 3 of BC's Restart plan, visit: <http://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021PREM0043-001268>

Epidemiology and modelling:

For the June 28, 2021, modelling presentation, visit: [http://news.gov.bc.ca/files/6-28 PHO presentation.pdf](http://news.gov.bc.ca/files/6-28_PHO_presentation.pdf)

The latest vaccine information:

For vaccine information, visit the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) dashboard: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data>

Or: www.bccdc.ca

For information on getting your second dose: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/dose-2>

Register for your vaccine now: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/register> or call 1-833-838-2323

Provincial health officer's orders and guidance:

Orders: <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>

Guidance on restrictions: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/restrictions>

[Online Course Provides Guidance on COVID-19 Risk Assessments and Workplace Safety Plans](#)

The Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) has developed a free online course to help organizations in Canada conduct a COVID-19 workplace risk assessment and safety plan.

[COVID-19 Workplace Risk Assessment and Safety Plan](#) is available in English and French. The course outlines the steps needed to plan and conduct a COVID-19 workplace risk assessment, and to plan and evaluate a workplace safety plan.

Managers, supervisors, and health and safety committee members or representatives will learn the work and personal factors to consider when assessing and preventing the risk of exposure, reviewing a safety plan to ensure it is effective, and keeping up to date with current COVID-19 guidelines.

COVID-19 Workplace Risk Assessment and Safety Plan is available on the [CCOHS website](#).

Learn More:

- [Risk Assessments Fact Sheet](#)
- [Sample Risk Assessment Form](#)
- [Controlling COVID-19 in the Workplace Infographic](#)
- [COVID-19 Health and Safety Resources](#)

[Bill C-30 receives Royal Assent](#)

June 29, Bill C-30, *An Act to implement certain provisions of the budget tabled in Parliament on April 19, 2021 and other measures* received Royal Assent.

The following key measures under the Act include:

- The extension of the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy, the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy, and Lockdown Support until September 25, 2021.
- The extension of income support for Canadians through the Canada Recovery Benefit and the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit.
- The new Canada Recovery Hiring Program, which will be available retroactive to June 6, 2021 to help businesses hire workers and increase workers' hours or wages.
- The enhanced Canada Workers Benefit which will support about 1 million more low-income working Canadians.
- The enhanced Employment Insurance sickness benefits which will increase from 15 to 26 weeks.
- A new \$15 federal minimum wage.
- An emergency top up of \$5 billion for provinces and territories – specifically \$4 billion through the Canada Health Transfer to help provinces and territories address immediate health care system pressures and \$1 billion to support vaccine rollout campaigns across the country.
- An additional \$2.2 billion to address short-term infrastructure priorities in municipalities and First Nations communities, through the federal Gas Tax Fund, renamed the Canada Community-Building Fund.

Learn More:

- [Government of Canada Announces Details of the New Canada Recovery Hiring Program and Extension of Business Support Programs](#)
- [Government Introduces Legislation to Deliver Jobs and Growth](#)
- [News release: Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience](#)
- [Budget 2021: A Recovery Plan for Jobs, Growth, and Resilience](#)

[Government of Canada funds four new projects to encourage COVID-19 vaccination in Canada](#)

June 30, Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health, announced four new projects receiving funding through the [Immunization Partnership Fund \(IPF\)](#) to support vaccination efforts across Canada. These community-based projects will support

COVID-19 vaccine uptake among communities disproportionately impacted by the pandemic through targeted outreach and culturally relevant interventions.

Among those four projects, the University of British Columbia will receive funding to develop an interprovincial network of workshops across the four Western provinces to enhance vaccine uptake. Based on a patient-centred approach, these workshops will engage communities to adapt their local vaccination programs to better address structural barriers faced by the local populations and reduce vaccine hesitancy.

The Government of Canada is working closely with experts, provinces and territories, and other partners to encourage vaccine confidence and better understand the barriers people may face to getting vaccinated. The IPF is one tool to help people in Canada make informed vaccine choices through community mobilization and public outreach.

[Minister of Labour speaks with provincial and territorial counterparts regarding workplaces and COVID-19](#)

June 28, the federal minister of labour, Filomena Tassi, met virtually with provincial and territorial labour ministers to discuss important workplace issues related to COVID-19.

Minister Tassi spoke with her counterparts about the changing nature of work and the new reality of working from home. She updated them on federal consultations on the right to disconnect as well as gig work in federally regulated sectors. Minister Tassi also spoke about the work of the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety, who will be developing material on the importance of disconnecting from work, with tips and best practices for employers and employees.

The meeting also provided the opportunity to address the broader implications of the fact that the home is increasingly becoming the workplace, including impacts on the health and safety of workers and the role of health and safety committees in that context.

The topic of mental health for workers was also discussed by the participants, both in context of the pandemic and more broadly.

The discussion concluded with an exchange on employment standards, including leave provisions. Minister Tassi highlighted the importance of supporting the national vaccination campaign, including by encouraging workers, employers and labour groups to work together to ensure that workers can be vaccinated.

Associated Links

[Labour Program – International Affairs](#)

[Canadian Association of Administrators of Labour Legislation](#)

[Joint Statement by the Minister of Labour, the Federally Regulated Employers - Transportation and Communications, and the Canadian Labour Congress regarding the role that vaccination can play in workplace health and safety](#)

[YVR ready to welcome back travellers](#)

Vancouver International Airport (YVR) says it's ready to welcome back travellers as COVID-19 restrictions continue to ease up.

“We are pleased to see the safe, phased approach that government is taking to advance restart plans in B.C. and Canada for those who are able to travel. We will continue to follow these plans and the direction of public health authorities to implement measures focused on keeping our communities safe while beginning to reopen the visitor economy,” said Robyn McVicker, YVR’s vice president of passenger journey, in a statement.

The airport cautions the process of passing through the border will be different than what people may be used to, and travellers are asked to be prepared.

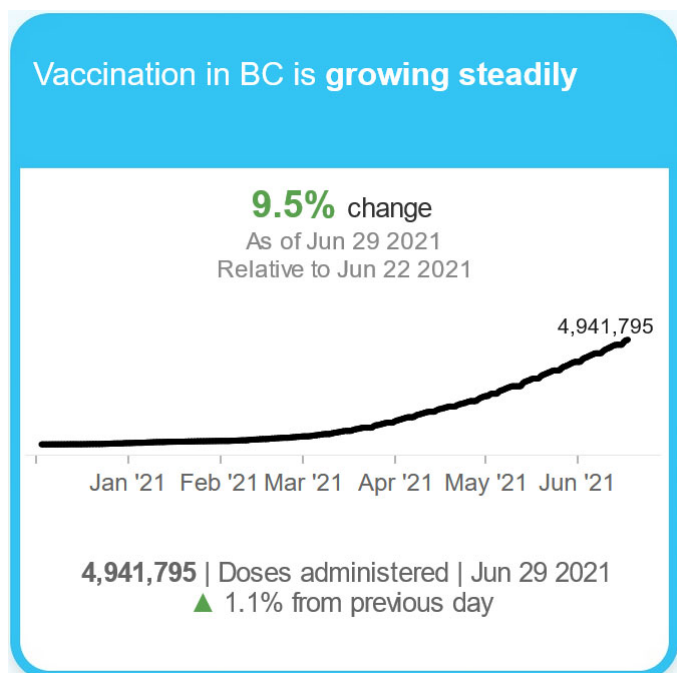
For example, those returning to Canada need to follow the federal government’s entry requirements, including pre-departure testing, using the ArriveCan app and pre-registering for an arrival test at the airport and quarantine plans where applicable. Security screenings for departing flights will also include a few extra steps, including temperature checks.

Masks also continue to be mandatory in the airport and on flights. The airport’s cleaning and hygiene program, TAKEcare, also remains in place. Many retail and food options at the airport have also re-opened, according to YVR.

As B.C. moved to the next phase of its four-step reopening plan on July 1, Canada-wide recreational travel is now allowed.

Meanwhile, the federal government has announced that, as of the night of July 5, fully-vaccinated Canadians and permanent residents will be able to enter the country without having to quarantine as long as they test negative for COVID-19 before and upon arrival.

Immunization dashboard



Stay safe.

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

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CONSTRUCTION LABOUR RELATIONS ASSOCIATION OF BC

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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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