

Joleen Kaminski

From: CLRInfo
Sent: January 29, 2021 12:48 PM
To: Ken McCormack
Cc: Paul Strangway; Joleen Kaminski
Subject: COVID 19 Update - January 29

Importance: High

[CLR Members,](#)

Here are your updates and resources on COVID-19 situation.

[COVID-19 Immunization Plan](#)

[Here](#) you can find a comprehensive compilation of resources on B.C.'s COVID-19 Immunization Plan.

B.C.'s COVID-19 Immunization Plan happens in four phases. The phased approach is based on advice and guidance from the NACI (National Advisory Committee on Immunization), B.C.'s Immunization Committee and the public health leadership committee. NACI recommends certain populations receive prioritization for early COVID-19 vaccination. Eligibility for all phases is based on the age you are turning in 2021.



Phase 1 (Current phase)

Timeline: December 2020 to February 2021

- Residents and staff of long-term care facilities
- Individuals assessed for and awaiting long-term care
- Residents and staff of assisted living residences
- Essential visitors to long-term care facilities and assisted living residences
- Hospital health care workers who may provide care for COVID-19 patients in settings like Intensive Care Units, emergency departments, paramedics, medical units and surgical units

- Remote and isolated Indigenous communities

Phase 2

Timeline: February to March 2021

- Seniors aged 80 and over who are not immunized in Phase 1
- Indigenous (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) seniors age 65 and over, Elders and additional Indigenous communities not immunized in Phase 1
- Hospital staff, community general practitioners (GPs) and medical specialists not immunized in Phase 1
- Vulnerable populations living and working in select congregated settings
- Staff in community home support and nursing services for seniors

Phase 3 and Phase 4: General population immunization

Vaccination for the general population runs April to September 2021. Vaccines will primarily be distributed in five year age increments, starting with the 79 to 75 age group.

[Travel restrictions: new mandatory COVID-19 hotel quarantine](#)

Jan 29, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced new restrictions on non-essential travels, including the suspension of all flights to sunny destinations amid the coronavirus pandemic. He said that Air Canada, WestJet, Sunwing and Air Transat have all agreed to cancel air services to “all Caribbean destinations and Mexico,” starting Sunday. The cancellations will continue until April 30. Trudeau also announced a new mandatory PCR testing requirement at airports for people returning to Canada. He said that while these travellers wait for the test result, they’ll be forced to quarantine for up to three days at a designated hotel, on their own expense. Those with negative test results will then be able to quarantine at home under increased surveillance and enforcement. Those with positive tests will be immediately required to quarantine in designated government facilities to make sure they’re not carrying variants of potential concern.

[Provincial update](#)

Dr. Bonnie Henry said Monday that B.C. has plateaued with an average of 500 cases of COVID-19 a day. Henry is concerned about the new variants being detected in B.C. and the upcoming vaccine shortage.

Provincial health officials were told last weekend the amount of vaccine they were expecting to receive in the first week of February have been significantly reduced and they do not know right now how much, if any, vaccine they will be receiving the following two weeks in February.

This means second doses will be delayed up until day 42 so that the vaccine available right now will be used to fully vaccinate those in long-term care and hospital and community outbreaks.

B.C. has received a total of 144,500 doses of vaccine. Henry said 33,023 long-term care staff have received a dose of vaccine, 25,701 long-term care residents have received a dose of vaccine and almost 3,000 have received a second dose.

So far in B.C., there have been 56 reports of adverse events following immunization after people received the vaccine. There have been 10 reports of a serious reaction to the vaccine, which is slightly more than other immunization programs, according to Dr. Henry. No one has died from receiving the vaccine.

[No quarantine for out-of-province](#)

B.C. Premier John Horgan said Wednesday it would be too complicated logistically to put in a 14-day travel quarantine in British Columbia to match what Manitoba is doing.

Horgan said Manitoba has fewer main highways into the province than B.C. and does not have as many airports with flights coming in from outside the province.

There has been increasing public pressure for the provincial government to put further restrictions on non-essential travel. The federal government is currently considering a wide range of options, mainly focused on international travel.

[SFU researchers warn COVID-19 U.K. variant could lead to 'massive virus spread' in B.C.](#)

Epidemiologists at Simon Fraser University are warning a huge spike of COVID-19 cases could be coming to British Columbia if the U.K. variant of the virus is established here. The B117 strain has been confirmed in six COVID-19 cases in B.C. The province has also reported three cases of the South African variant, B1351. The U.K. variant is believed to be at least 40 per cent more transmissible to the common strain of the virus.

The researchers designed a model to project what spread of the variant would look like under the current COVID-19 controls. The data shows by the mid-March more than 5,000 new COVID-19 cases a day. In this modelling, the control measures currently in place continue indefinitely. The researchers acknowledge that is not realistic but serves to illustrate the impact of a higher-transmission variant even if we keep doing the things we are currently doing.

The researchers are calling on both federal and provincial government to put in tighter measures to prevent the new variant from getting a hold in the country. This would include tighter rules on travel as well as define essential travel and stop non-essential travel.

[Provincial stats](#)

According to BC Centre for Disease Control data, last updated on Jan 28, total number of COVID-19 cases in the province reached 66,265. There are currently 291 hospitalized patients, 75 in critical care. 1,184 people died, while 59,141 have recovered from the disease. Total vaccine doses administered in B.C. up to date – 127,255, with 144,550 total doses received.

[Stay safe.](#)

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