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From: CLRInfo
Sent: May 14, 2021 9:45 AM
To: Ken McCormack
Cc: Maria Sushkova
Subject: COVID-19 Update - May 14
Attachments: BCCSA_COVIDSAFETY_LUNCH.pdf; BCCSA_COVIDSAFETY_BREAKS.pdf

Importance: High

[CLR Members,](#)

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

[B.C. opening COVID-19 vaccine booking to everyone 18+ by Sunday night](#)

By Sunday evening, everyone aged 18 and older in British Columbia will be able to book a COVID-19 vaccine appointment. Health officials announced the latest update to their immunization timeline at a Thursday, May 13, briefing.

Bookings will open first to adults aged 25 and up (born in 1996 or earlier) at 7 p.m. today (Friday). That age group will expand to include those 20 and older (born in 2001 or before) on Saturday at 7 p.m., and to people aged 18 and up on Sunday at 7 p.m.

The province is also working on plans to immunize youth aged 12-17, with details to be announced next week.

“The key to booking is to register,” Health Minister Adrian Dix said of the upcoming wave of bookings. Registering with the province will both ensure an individual gets notified when it is their time to book, and better allow the province to manage and track second doses, officials say.

As of Thursday, more than 2.21 million British Columbians, accounting for just over 43% of the population, have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

[More than 50% of eligible people in B.C. have received first vaccine dose](#)

More than 50% of all eligible people in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

Building on that momentum, Premier John Horgan is calling for everyone to register for vaccination and help friends, family and neighbours to do the same.

Please, read the official [social media post](#) from the BC Government:

“We all need to register to get vaccinated. If you got your first dose in a pharmacy and have never registered using the provincial system, make sure you are registered here: <http://gov.bc.ca/GetVaccinated> You'll get notified when it's time for your second dose. [#CovidBC](#)”

Did you get your first dose in a pharmacy?

Register now

COVID-19 IN BC

Vaccines in high-transmission neighbourhoods

High-transmission neighbourhoods across the province were prioritized for immunization based on COVID-19 cases, outbreaks and hospitalizations. People who are born in 2003 or earlier (18+) and live in high-transmission neighbourhoods must register to get vaccinated. Once registered, they will receive a booking invitation for their vaccine appointment.

For more information visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/neighbourhood>.

Now vaccinating: Adults 18+ in these neighbourhoods

- Abbotsford Rural
- Britannia Beach
- Burnaby Southeast
- Burnaby Southwest
- Cedar Cottage
- Central Abbotsford
- Cloverdale
- D'arcy
- Dawson Creek
- East Abbotsford
- East Newton
- Fleetwood
- Fort Nelson
- Population Centre
- Fort St. James North
- Fort St. John
- Golden
- Grandview-Woodland
- Guildford
- Hastings-Sunrise
- Kensington
- Killarney
- North Delta
- North Surrey
- Panorama
- Pinecrest Estates
- Port Coquitlam
- Renfrew-Collingwood
- Rutland
- South Langley Township
- South Mission
- Squamish
- Summerland
- Sunset
- Victoria-Fraserview
- West Abbotsford
- West Newton
- Whalley
- Willoughby

Register now

COVID-19 IN BC

Immunization plan: priority industries and frontline workers

The implementation of the provincial COVID-19 Immunization Plan continues, with the priority given to frontline workers in industries where full use of personal protective equipment and barriers can be challenging, where outbreaks and clusters have occurred, and where workers live or work in congregate settings.

Under this program, Fraser Health has invited those aged 18 and older (born in 2003 or earlier) in a number of occupational groups to book a vaccine appointment. For more information on the categories of frontline workers eligible for priority vaccination, and on how to get registered, please visit: <https://www.fraserhealth.ca/health-topics-a-to-z/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine/frontline#.YJ2K9aFIA2y>.

Unpaid COVID-19 fines may lead to driver's, vehicle licence denial

People who leave COVID-19 fines unpaid may be unable to obtain or renew a B.C. driver's licence or vehicle licence under proposed legislation introduced Wednesday, May 12.

If passed, proposed amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act will extend "refuse to issue" (RTI) restrictions to fines issued under the Emergency Program Act and COVID-19 Related Measures Act. RTI will apply to all outstanding fines issued under these acts and will be applied retroactively. People with outstanding fines will receive notice of the RTI from ICBC ahead of their driver's licence expiry and vehicle license renewal. These amendments will come into force on July 1, 2021.

British Columbians may be able to choose vaccine other than AstraZeneca for the second dose

British Columbians who received the AstraZeneca-Oxford COVID-19 vaccine as their first dose will likely be able to choose whether they want their second dose to be of the same vaccine.

Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry says as shipments of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines increase, switching up the type of shot for the second dose is a possibility, as long as it is proven to be safe and effective.

Henry said she is closely watching research being done now in the United Kingdom, where about 60% of people were given AstraZeneca for their first shot. Researchers at Oxford University launched a study in early February to explore the possible benefits of alternating different COVID-19 vaccines.

Henry's comments come as the AstraZeneca vaccine faces continued scrutiny in jurisdictions around the world after it was linked to vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia (VITT), a rare blood clot disorder. Some provinces are considering pausing the vaccine's use altogether.

COVID-19 vaccination plan for B.C. children to be presented in coming days

With Health Canada approving the use of the Pfizer vaccine on children 12-15 last week, Dr. Bonnie Henry said on Monday details on the province's own plans for vaccinating younger Canadians will be unveiled shortly.

The Pfizer vaccine is the most widely used one throughout the country and it is the first of Canada's four vaccines to get approved for children 12-15 years old. The vaccine has been permitted for children 16 years and up since December 2020. To date, 2,053,045 British Columbians have received at least one vaccine dose, while 106,058 have received two.

Penny Ballem, executive lead for B.C.'s immunization plan, said last week she expects a significant acceleration of second doses to begin by the third week of June and that the current interval between first and second doses – 16 weeks – will be reduced.

Health Minister Adrian Dix also confirmed Monday that the previously expected shipment of 40,000 doses of the one-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccine have yet to be delivered.

About 275,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine are due to arrive in B.C. each week through to the end of May. June will mark an even more significant ramp-up in deliveries, with around 328,000 doses arriving weekly all month.

Government of Canada increases access to COVID-19 rapid testing for workers

May 7, Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health, and Mary Ng, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade, encouraged businesses and organizations to apply for free rapid tests for workplace screening projects. This initiative builds on previous rapid testing projects supported by the Government of Canada, including through the

[Creative Destruction Lab Rapid Screening Consortium](#). Through these projects, the Government provided more than 1 million rapid tests to screen more than 100,000 close-contact employees across Canada in 58 organizations including Air Canada, Canadian Blood Services, McCain Foods Canada, Sobeys and Teck Resources.

These actions respond to the expert recommendations from the [Testing and Screening Expert Panel's first report](#), and the [Industry Advisory Roundtable on COVID-19 Testing, Screening, Tracing and Data Management](#).

[B.C.'s paid sick leave will support workers, reimburse businesses](#)

As a reminder of our communication earlier this week, workers will soon have access to a paid sick leave program that will support them to stay home when they are sick during the pandemic and afterward, including permanent paid sick leave. The legislation to support this initiative was tabled on Tuesday, May 11, 2021.

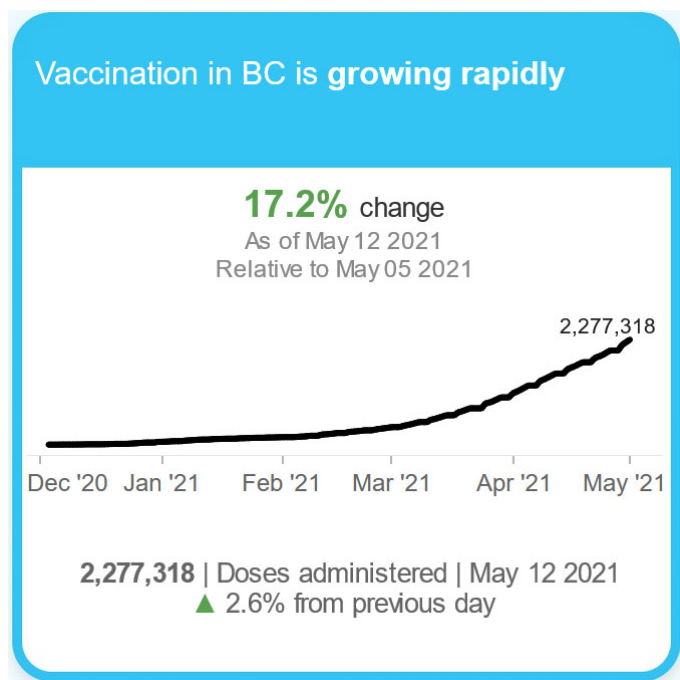
Amendments to the Employment Standards Act will bring in three days of paid sick leave related to COVID-19, such as having symptoms, self-isolating and waiting for a test result. Employers will be required to pay workers their full wages and the Province will reimburse employers without an existing sick leave program up to \$200 per day for each worker to cover costs.

WorkSafeBC will set up and, beginning next month, administer the employer reimbursement program on behalf of the Province. This will include reimbursing employers up to \$200 per day per worker. The employers that have a highly paid workforce, but do not already have paid sick leave, will be required to cover any remaining wages owed above \$200 for each COVID-19 sick day taken.

[Provincial stats](#)

The information below is current as of 3pm on Thursday, May 13, 2021:

- New cases: 587
- Total cases: 137,810
- Deaths in last 24 hours: 5
- Total deaths: 1,632
- Total recoveries: 130,310



COVID-19 communication resources

Attached please find the **COVID Safety posters** from the BC Construction Safety Alliance for your reference and further use.

Stay safe.

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

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