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## JOINT STATEMENT

For Immediate Release  
2021HLTH0022-000517  
March 19, 2021

Ministry of Health  
Office of the Provincial Health Officer

### **Joint statement on B.C.'s COVID-19 response, latest updates**

VICTORIA – Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.'s provincial health officer, and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, have issued the following joint statement regarding updates on the COVID-19 response in British Columbia:

“Today, we are reporting 737 new cases, for a total of 90,786 cases in British Columbia.

“There are 5,207 active cases of COVID-19 in the province, with 9,412 people under active public health monitoring as a result of identified exposure to known cases. A further 84,078 people who tested positive have recovered.

“Of the active cases, 292 individuals are currently hospitalized with COVID-19, 85 of whom are in intensive care. The remaining people are recovering at home in self-isolation.

“Since we last reported, we have had 163 new cases of COVID-19 in the Vancouver Coastal Health region, 426 new cases in the Fraser Health region, 32 in the Island Health region, 33 in the Interior Health region, 82 in the Northern Health region and one new case of a person who resides outside of Canada.

“There have been 68 new confirmed COVID-19 cases that are variants of concern in our province, for a total of 1,200 cases. Of the total cases, 149 are active and the remaining people have recovered. This includes 1,094 cases of the B.1.1.7 (U.K.) variant, 41 cases of the B.1.351 (South Africa) variant and 65 cases of the P.1 (Brazil) variant.

“To date, 490,022 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca-SII COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in B.C., 87,139 of which are second doses. Today, vaccine appointment bookings are open for people over 80. Starting tomorrow, people 79 and older and Indigenous peoples over 55 will also be able to book an appointment.

“There have been two new COVID-19 related deaths, for a total of 1,421 deaths in British Columbia.

“There have been no new health-care facility outbreaks and the outbreak at Holmberg House Hospice is now over.

“The availability of the AstraZeneca/SII COVID-19 vaccine has allowed us to create a parallel vaccine program to our age-based provincewide immunization program.

“It is separate supply that supplements and adds onto the age-based vaccines, allowing us to strategically target active outbreaks and higher-risk populations and locations.

“With our AstraZeneca/SII supply for the coming weeks confirmed, we are able to start

immunizing our front-line workers. As more vaccine becomes available, we will be able to expand to even more people on our front lines.

“For those who have been at work throughout the pandemic, supporting so many others, please know your efforts are recognized and valued. Everyone is important and everyone will have their turn.

“The selection of the front-line workers for part two of this program is based on the known risk of transmission, as well as the nature and size of the workplace environment.

“We remind all businesses and workers that the requirement to continue to follow COVID-19 safety plans remains in place – even if workers have been vaccinated.

“We also remind workers that health authorities will contact employers directly to arrange immunizations, and calling the age-based booking line will not provide access to the parallel AstraZeneca/SII vaccine program.

“We are working with all of the supply we have available to maximize our protection and we are using every last drop. We also must focus on the individual actions that we need now more than ever to keep each other and our families and communities safe.”

#### **Learn More:**

To view the March 18, 2021, PowerPoint presentations, visit: [https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/03.18.2021\\_COVID\\_Immunization\\_Plan.pdf](https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/03.18.2021_COVID_Immunization_Plan.pdf)

#### **Latest vaccine information:**

For vaccine information, visit the BCCDC dashboard: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data>

Or: [www.bccdc.ca](http://www.bccdc.ca)

Joint Statement on first deployment of AstraZeneca vaccine in B.C.: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/24001>

#### **Provincial health officer 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>

#### **The latest updates, guidance and information on COVID-19, and where to get tested:**

The latest medical updates, including case counts, prevention, risks and to find a testing centre near you: <http://www.bccdc.ca/>

Or follow @CDCofBC on Twitter.

For data regarding ongoing outbreaks in long-term care, assisted-living and independent-living facilities in B.C., visit: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data#outbreak>

**Mental health support:**

Mental health and anxiety support: [www.bouncebackbc.ca](http://www.bouncebackbc.ca)

Or: [www.anxietycanada.com](http://www.anxietycanada.com)

Or: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/mental-well-being-during-covid-19>

Or: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/managing-your-health/mental-health-substance-use/virtual-supports-covid-19>

To share your feedback in the Personal Impacts of COVID-19 Survey, visit: <https://www.bcchr.ca/POP/our-research/pics>

**Non-health related information:**

Financial, child care and education support, travel, transportation and essential service information: [www.gov.bc.ca/covid19](http://www.gov.bc.ca/covid19)

Or call 1 888 COVID19 (1 888 268-4319) between 7:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. (Pacific time), seven days a week.

**COVID-19 exposure events, updates and information by health authority:**

BCCDC (flights, work sites, etc): <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/public-exposures>

Fraser Health: [fraserhealth.ca/covid19exposure](http://fraserhealth.ca/covid19exposure)

Interior Health: <https://news.interiorhealth.ca/news/public-exposures/>

Island Health: <https://www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/covid-19/outbreaks-and-exposures>

Northern Health: <https://www.northernhealth.ca/health-topics/outbreaks-and-exposures>

Vancouver Coastal Health: <http://www.vch.ca/covid-19/public-exposures>

For the latest videos and livestreaming of COVID-19 media availabilities, visit:

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/BCProvincialGovernment/](http://www.facebook.com/BCProvincialGovernment/)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BCGovNews>

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/ProvinceofBC](http://www.youtube.com/ProvinceofBC)

A backgrounder follows.

**Contact:**

Ministry of Health

Communications

250 952-1887 (media line)

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Connect with the Province of B.C. at: [news.gov.bc.ca/connect](http://news.gov.bc.ca/connect)

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## BACKGROUND

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### **Assisted-living, long-term care homes, seniors' rental buildings and acute-care facilities with ongoing COVID-19 outbreaks**

#### **Assisted-living, long-term care homes and seniors' rental buildings:**

##### **Vancouver Coastal Health – no facilities**

##### **Fraser Health – three facilities**

- Fleetwood Place
- Oceana Parc
- Revera Sunwood Retirement Community

##### **Northern Health – no facilities**

##### **Interior Health – two facilities**

- Cottonwoods Care Centre
- The Florentine

##### **Island Health – no facilities**

##### **Acute-care facilities:**

- Chilliwack General Hospital
- Eagle Ridge Hospital
- Kelowna General Hospital
- Mission Memorial Hospital
- Ridge Meadows Hospital
- Surrey Memorial Hospital
- Vancouver General Hospital
- UBC Hospital

##### **Contact:**

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