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## JOINT STATEMENT

For Immediate Release  
2021HLTH0031-000832  
May 3, 2021

Ministry of Health  
Office of the Provincial Health Officer

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

VANCOUVER – 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 on three periods: from April 30 to May 1, we had 835 new cases; from May 1 to May 2, we had 671 new cases and in the last 24 hours, we had a further 668 new cases.

“This results in 2,174 new cases over the period, for a total of 131,656 cases in British Columbia.

“There are 7,327 active cases of COVID-19 in the province, with 11,781 people under public health monitoring as a result of identified exposure to known cases. A further 122,518 people who tested positive have recovered.

“Of the active cases, 474 individuals are currently hospitalized with COVID-19, 176 of whom are in intensive care. The remaining people with COVID-19 are recovering at home in self-isolation.

“Since we last reported, we have had 438 new cases of COVID-19 in the Vancouver Coastal Health region, 1,509 new cases in the Fraser Health region, 61 in the Island Health region, 106 in the Interior Health region, 60 in the Northern Health region and no new cases of people who reside outside of Canada.

“There have been 15 new COVID-19 related deaths, for a total of 1,596 deaths in British Columbia. Our condolences are with the family, friends and caregivers of the people who have died as a result of COVID-19.

“The outbreaks at Prince Rupert Regional Hospital and Abbotsford Regional Hospital are now over.

“1,877,330 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in B.C., 91,731 of which are second doses.

“The focus of the COVID-19 vaccine program is to protect as many people as possible, as quickly as possible, addressing hot spots and reducing overall transmission. Everyone in B.C. who is 18 years or older should register on the Get Vaccinated website or by calling 1 833 838-2323. Registration is required only once.

“Once you are registered, your dose will be reserved for you, and you will be notified when to book.

“We have reached a new, encouraging point in our pandemic response. Starting today, the available vaccine will be significantly increasing, and this is good news for all of us.

“Over the coming month, more than one million vaccine doses will be delivered to our province, with more anticipated for June, giving the vast majority of eligible people access to a vaccine before Canada Day.

“We are moving as quickly as possible to get vaccine into arms, which means at times, there will be bumps along the way in our rollout and delivery. Importantly, when those bumps occur, we will pivot and adjust to keep moving forward.

“In the meantime, we must continue our actions to stop the spread and do everything we can to relieve the pressure on our health-care workers.”

### **Learn More:**

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

For more information about current COVID-19 travel restrictions, visit:  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/travel/current>

### **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>

### **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](http://www.bccdc.ca)

### **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](#)

**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: <https://facebook.com/BCProvincialGovernment/>

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

YouTube: <https://youtube.com/ProvinceofBC>

Two backgrounders follow.

**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 1

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### **Immunization eligibility**

#### **Age-based program**

Anyone 18 years or older may now register through the Get Vaccinated online system.

Appointments are now being made for people 54 and older and Indigenous people 18 and older, as well as people who have received a letter indicating they are clinically vulnerable.

#### **First responder and worker program**

Health authorities are contacting workplaces to arrange for workers to be vaccinated. This program is continuing to be phased in, focusing on communities that are highest risk.

#### **AstraZeneca pharmacy program**

In addition to the age-based and worker programs, vaccinations are expanding for people aged 30 and older who are now also eligible to receive their AstraZeneca vaccine at participating pharmacies with supply. This is being done after a careful review of the evidence that initially led to a pause in the expanded AstraZeneca vaccine program for younger workers.

Participating pharmacies are listed on the BC Pharmacy Association website:  
<https://www.bcpharmacy.ca/resource-centre/covid-19/vaccination-locations>

#### **High-transmission communities**

In addition, specific AstraZeneca vaccine clinics will be established in the 18 communities with the highest identified in-community transmission. People 40 and older who reside in those communities will be able to get vaccinated there. For a complete list of the 18 communities, as well as information to assist in determining if you reside in one of these communities, go to:  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/neighbourhood>

Anyone 40 and older in the following community health service areas can also be vaccinated at several specific clinics that are being set up. The service areas include:

- Britannia Beach
- D'arcy
- Dawson Creek
- East Newton
- Fleetwood
- Kensington
- North Delta
- North Surrey

- Panorama
- Pinecrest Estates
- Port Coquitlam
- Renfrew-Collingwood
- South Langley Township
- Squamish
- Sunset
- Whalley
- West Abbotsford
- West Newton

People living in these communities must register for their vaccine appointments using the Province's Get Vaccinated registration and booking tool and will be invited to book an appointment on the same day they register. The fastest way to register and book is online at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/register>

People can confirm whether they live in a high-transmission neighbourhood prioritized for immunization by entering their postal code: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/neighbourhood>

Only those with eligible postal codes will be able to receive a vaccine through the high-transmission neighbourhood program.

**Contact:**

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Communications  
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## BACKGROUND 2

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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, seniors' rental buildings:**

Vancouver Coastal Health – no facilities

Fraser Health – one facility

- Dufferin Care Centre (second occurrence)

Northern Health – one facility

- Acropolis Manor (second occurrence)

Interior Health – four facilities

- Cottonwoods Care Centre
- Orchard Haven
- Sandalwood Retirement Resort
- Spring Valley Care Centre

Island Health – two facilities

- Craigdarroch Care Home
- Mount St. Mary

#### **Acute-care facilities with COVID-19 outbreaks:**

- Dawson Creek and District Hospital
- Lions Gate Hospital
- Surrey Memorial Hospital

#### **Contact:**

Ministry of Health  
Communications  
250 952-1887 (media line)