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## JOINT STATEMENT

For Immediate Release  
2021HLTH0032-000874  
May 7, 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 722 new cases, for a total of 134,341 cases in British Columbia.

“There are 6,757 active cases of COVID-19 in the province. A further 125,799 people who tested positive have recovered.

“Of the active cases, 445 individuals are currently hospitalized with COVID-19, 157 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 115 new cases of COVID-19 in the Vancouver Coastal Health region, 523 new cases in the Fraser Health region, 20 in the Island Health region, 38 in the Interior Health region, 26 in the Northern Health region and no new cases of people who reside outside of Canada.

“There have been seven new COVID-19 related deaths, for a total of 1,602 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.

“2,042,442 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in B.C., 99,461 of which are second doses.

“With over two million doses in the arms of people throughout the province, our COVID-19 immunization program has significant momentum, and more people are getting their vaccine every day.

“To date, 45% of those who are eligible have received at least one dose. For everyone who has received their vaccine, we thank you for doing your part. For those who will soon be eligible, we encourage you to join this vaccine effort when it is your turn.

“Today, anyone 49 and older can book their vaccine, and the age-based eligibility will continue to decrease in the coming days. We are also expanding our worker program to many more workplaces, reducing the potential for outbreaks and clusters with front-line workers.

“Following all of the public health orders, staying small and local, and getting your vaccine is making a difference, so let's all keep going this weekend, on Mother's Day and in the days ahead.”

**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 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 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, visit:**

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)

Two backgrounders follow.

**Contact:**

Ministry of Health

Communications

250 952-1887 (media line)

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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 49 and older, pregnant people 16 and older, 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 35 communities with the highest identified in-community transmission. People 30 and older, who reside in those communities, will be able to get vaccinated there. For a complete list of the 35 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 30 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:

#### **Fraser Health – 19 communities**

- Abbotsford Rural
- Burnaby Southeast
- Burnaby Southwest
- Central Abbotsford
- Cloverdale

- East Abbotsford
- East Newton
- Fleetwood
- Guildford
- North Delta
- North Surrey
- Panorama
- Port Coquitlam
- South Langley Township
- South Mission
- West Abbotsford
- West Newton
- Whalley
- Willoughby

#### Interior Health – three communities

- Golden (born in 2003 or earlier, 18 and up)
- Rutland
- Summerland

#### Northern Health – four communities

- Dawson Creek (born in 2003 or earlier, 18 and up)
- Fort Nelson Population Centre (born in 2003 or earlier, 18 and up)
- Fort St John (born in 2003 or earlier, 18 and up)
- Fort St. James North (born in 2003 or earlier, 18 and up)

#### Vancouver Coastal Health – nine communities

- Cedar Cottage
- Grandview-Woodland
- Hastings-Sunrise
- Kensington
- Killarney
- Renfrew-Collingwood
- Squamish
- Sunset
- Victoria-Fraserview

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: <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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## BACKGROUND 2

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

**Independent and assisted-living, long-term care homes and seniors' rental buildings:**

Vancouver Coastal Health – no facilities

Fraser Health – one facility

- Dufferin Care Centre (second occurrence)

Northern Health – no facilities

Interior Health – three facilities

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

Island Health – no facilities

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

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

**Contact:**

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