

February 3, 2021

Preparing for Phase 2 of the COVID-19 immunization plan

Like all of B.C.'s health authorities, Island Health is starting the month of February with limited vaccine supply. We remain confident that we will see increasing supply as the month progresses, and we are continuing with preparations to vaccinate high-risk populations identified in Phase 2 and launch mass immunization clinics in April.

Under the guidance of the Ministry of Health, and with the direction of Dr. Penny Ballem as executive lead for B.C.'s immunization effort, the province's health authorities are taking a coordinated, consistent approach to the mass immunization project, which will see approximately 7.4 million doses of vaccine administered by the end of September.

ACTIVE COVID-19 CASES

- As of Feb. 2 there were 239 active COVID-19 cases in the Island Health region – 55 in the South Island, 175 in the Central Island and 9 in the North Island. [View Island Health's public COVID-19 dashboard](#) for detailed case and contact tracing information.
- Island Health recorded 1,000 cases between March 11, 2020 and Jan. 5, 2021, and another 500 in the three weeks between Jan. 6-27.
- As of Feb. 2 there are currently two COVID-19 outbreaks: Chartwell Malaspina Care Residence in Nanaimo and Nanaimo Regional General Hospital. [View Island Health's COVID-19 Outbreak and Public Exposure page](#) for more information.

VACCINATIONS

- As of Feb. 2 Island Health had administered 25,418 doses of vaccine.
- Vaccine recipients are those groups listed in Phase 1 (see graphic)

OUR FOCUS THIS WEEK

- Allocating available vaccine for Phase 1 populations
- Beginning second doses for people in Phase 1, starting with long-term care and assisted living staff and physicians
- Planning the vaccination process for people in Phase 2, starting with seniors age 80+ and Indigenous seniors aged 65+

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- The timeline for B.C.'s COVID-19 Vaccination Plan is dependent on vaccine supply and availability.

Phase 1 Dec 2020-Feb 2021	Phase 2 Feb-March 2021
High-risk population	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents, staff, and essential visitors to long-term care and assisted living Individuals assessed for/awaiting long-term care Hospital health care workers who may provide care for COVID-19 patients Remote and isolated Indigenous communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seniors aged 80+ who are not yet immunized Indigenous seniors aged 65+, Elders, and additional communities not yet immunized Hospital staff, community GPs and medical specialists not yet immunized Vulnerable populations in select congregated settings Staff in community home support and nursing services for seniors
Phase 3 April-June 2021	Phase 4 July-Sept 2021
General population	
People aged 79 to 60, in five year increments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 79 to 75 74 to 70 69 to 65 64 to 60 People aged 69 to 16 who are clinically extremely vulnerable 	People aged 59 to 18, in five year increments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 59 to 55 54 to 50 49 to 45 44 to 40 39 to 35 34 to 30 29 to 25 24 to 18
Once more vaccines are approved/available, people 64 to 18 yrs who are front-line essential workers or work in specific workplaces/industries may be included later in Phase 3.	

- The timeline for each phase may change due to vaccine availability. All people in B.C. recommended to receive the vaccine will have the opportunity to get it in 2021.
- If, due to your work with long-term care or emergency departments, you have received your first dose, you will be contacted by Island Health's call centre when it is time for your second appointment. Second doses are being scheduled to take place 42 days after the first dose. The BCCDC is the best source for the [latest guidelines on first and second dose timelines](#).
- Primary care providers who did not receive their vaccine in Phase 1 will be eligible in Phase 2 (February and March).
- Island Health is actively planning the vaccination process for seniors aged 80+ and Indigenous seniors aged 65+.
- Many individuals in this age range, as well as their families and caregivers, are eager for more information about the process. Patients and families do not need to take any action at this time to secure a vaccination appointment. More information will be available in mid to late February. **We appreciate your support sharing this information with your office staff, patients and their families.**
- The B.C. government is developing a registration process for Phases 3 and 4. More information will be available in late February.

LINKS, RESOURCES & FAQs

Post COVID-19 Recovery:

- [The Post COVID-19 Interdisciplinary Clinical Care Network](#) coordinates care, research, and education for recovery. Visit the programs and services section of the Provincial Health Services Authority website.
- [Rapid Access to Consultative Expertise \(RACE\)](#): The provincial post COVID-19 Rapid Access to Specialist Consultation (RACE) line is staffed Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm. Call 1-604-696-2131. An account is required. Specialty area name: COVID-GIM-Post-Infection Care.

Immunization Training Resources:

- Physicians who are looking for COVID-19 immunization education can access the following webinars on [LearningHub](#), which are about 45 minutes in total:
 - [BCCDC COVID-19 Immunization Webinars](#)
 - [COVID-19 Vaccine Overview](#)
 - [COVID-19 mRNA Vaccines](#)
- This training will be required for those supporting Health Authority Mass Immunization Clinics.
- Additionally, physicians who are looking for a refresher course for immunization practice in general (i.e., not specific to COVID-19), the [Pearls for Immunization Practice](#) course is a great option, as it provides practical immunization information to assist immunizers in the practice setting as well as highlights important immunization resources. This online course is posted on the UBC Continuing Professional Development website, and is CME accredited.

BCCDC Resources:

- [New Today](#): This section of the website highlights the latest guidance documents and updates to the website for health professionals.
- [About the vaccines](#)
- [Resources for Health Professionals](#)
- [Reporting adverse events](#)

Doctors of BC:

- [Info for doctors getting or giving the vaccine](#)
- [Updated toolkit for doctors' offices](#)

Frequently Asked Questions:

- [ImmunizeBC FAQ](#)