

**September 8, 2021 – British Columbia (BC) Digital Vaccine Card**

Sadly, four people died of COVID-19 in the Island Health region over the long weekend. Our sincere condolences to their loved ones, communities, and to those who provided care. This loss of life over the weekend again reminds of the impact we can all make in our communities by encouraging all members of the public to get vaccinated.

Premier John Horgan officially launched the [B.C. Vaccine Card](#), a digital or printed document British Columbians will need to access non-essential activities and services, including restaurants, sporting events, movie theatres and gyms. "Getting vaccinated is the proven choice to protect ourselves and the people around us... the requirement for proof of vaccine will make our communities safer and also ensure that events and gatherings are safer for all of us," said Dr. Bonnie Henry. "We have put the vaccine card in place to keep businesses open, to keep people working, and to keep people safe."



**How to get your digital BC Vaccine Card**

- 1** Visit [gov.bc.ca/vaccinecard](https://gov.bc.ca/vaccinecard)  
Enter your Personal Health Number, date of birth, and date of vaccination
- 2** Get your BC Vaccine Card  
Save it to your mobile device or print it
- 3** Have your BC Vaccine Card ready  
Show it with your ID

COVID-19 IN BC

Access to the following places and activities will require proof of vaccination after Sept. 13:

- Restaurants, pubs, bars and lounges (indoor and outdoor dining).
- Organized indoor events with 50 or more people (e.g. wedding receptions, parties, conferences, workshops, etc.).
- Discretionary organized indoor group recreational classes and activities.
- Indoor concerts, theatre, dance and symphony events.
- Fitness centres, gyms, indoor sports (excluding youth recreational sport).
- Indoor group exercise activities.
- Night clubs, casinos, movie theatres.
- Indoor ticketed sporting events.

While recognizing that COVID-19 will continue with us as an endemic, the BC Ministry of Health has updated [acute care visitation guidelines](#) to balance safety measures with the need for connection between patients and their families. The changes include allowing two visitors at a time for all patients (some exceptions include ICU and EDs where it may be limited to one visitor, and pediatric/labour and delivery, palliative and end of life, where more than two visitors may be allowed.) Clinical decision making will continue to guide unique circumstances and other considerations, such as multi-bed rooms. In addition, consistent with the BC Ministry of Health policy, [mask use will continue](#) to be required for all staff and visitors, including people who are confirmed fully vaccinated. Finally, staff in long-term care, seniors' assisted living and provincial mental health facilities are required to be vaccinated. Vaccination status of employees is being confirmed through the process required by the PHO under the [COVID-19 Vaccination Status Information and Preventive Measures Order](#). Effective September 13, 2021, any staff who are not yet fully vaccinated (7 days past Dose 2 of vaccine) will need to undergo rapid testing for COVID-19 on every shift worked.

Island Health Region Total Vaccines Administered To Date	% Population Immunized (18+) 1st Dose To Date	% Population Immunized (12+) 1st Dose To Date	% Population Immunized (18+) 2nd Dose To Date
<b>1,287,858</b>	<b>83.3%</b>	<b>82.9%</b>	<b>77.8%</b>

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

### [IMPORTANT: Message on in-person and virtual care to physicians from the BC Ministry of Health and the College of Physicians & Surgeons of British Columbia on Sept 3, 2021](#)

- With appropriate measures in place, **the expectation is for all practitioners to resume routine in-person visits** based on clinical needs and patient preferences.

### [Message from Island Health Medical Health Officers to Primary Care Providers](#)

- As we continue in Phase 3 of [BC's Restart plan](#), and look to transitioning to Phase 4 over the fall months, the Island Health Medical Health Officers are providing an update to Primary Care Providers.

### [Reminder: Message from the College of Physician and Surgeons of BC Registrar](#)

- The use of virtual care was accelerated by both providers and patients during the COVID-19 pandemic and key learnings have informed the College's recent revised Virtual Care practice standard. **Please review the updated practice standards around the appropriateness of virtual care.**

### [Reminder: Island Health prepares to transition Mass Immunization Clinic Operations](#)

- After eight months of intense work to immunize as many people as possible against COVID-19, Island Health is preparing to scale back mass immunization clinics - but not before making it easier than ever to be fully vaccinated.

### [Find an Immunization Clinic or Vax Van Stop](#)

- Find Island Health region [immunization clinic listings](#) and [Vax Van stops](#).

## LINKS, RESOURCES & FAQs

### 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](#)