

Booster Doses for Healthcare Workers & Priority Populations – November 17, 2022

Immunize BC is undertaking a [COVID-19 booster dose](#) program in British Columbia with priority eligibility based on clinical risk. Currently, booster shots are being offered to those ages 70+, Indigenous peoples ages 18+, and populations that received their second dose on or before March 15, 2021 - including health-care workers in specific settings who will be invited to get a vaccine between now and the end of January.

In order to receive an invitation for your booster dose when you become eligible, you must be registered on the [Get Vaccinated](#) online system **AND** you will need to self-identify as a *health care worker* on the Get Vaccinated system in [one of five categories](#). **Please note Category 5 is most applicable to community-based primary care providers.**

[Use this guide](#) for your Health Care Worker identification code. Follow the steps carefully, and for best results, use a Chrome browser.

Yesterday, Dr. Bonnie Henry provided a reminder that this pandemic is not over. She shared new information about variants – particularly a sub-lineage of the Delta variant known as AY4.2, which has been detected in BC. “This was a specific mutation that has been found in the UK,” she said. “We are continuing to follow the whole genome sequencing and making sure we are aware of what strains are being transmitted in British Columbia.” Dr. Henry says they are monitoring whether these new strains are spreading more easily or making people sicker, and if they are associated with reduced effectiveness of vaccine. The mutations of the Delta variant have been shown to spread more quickly, and cause more severe illness in younger people. Dr. Henry closed her comments on this topic with the reminder that vaccination is our greatest defence.



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
1,415,475	92.7%	92.5%	89.2%

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Community-based Immunization Clinics

This guidance outlines the infection prevention and control measures required for the set-up and safe operation of immunization clinics in community settings (e.g., community pharmacies, public health units, schools, community centres, arenas).

Nanaimo COVID-19 Testing and Immunization Clinics Relocated

The Beban Park COVID-19 immunization clinic and the Vancouver Island University testing and collection clinic are relocating to **Nanaimo North Town Centre at 4750 Rutherford Road**. Both clinics will be in the same unit (Unit #114, former location of Urban Planet), but with a wall between them and separate entrances/exits to ensure everyone's health and safety.

The COVID-19 testing and collection site opened at Nanaimo North Town Centre on Tuesday, November 9, and accepts appointments daily from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. As with all other Island Health testing and collection sites, COVID-19 testing is by appointment only. Drop-in testing is not available. **Access is via the exterior of the mall.**

The immunization clinic will begin operations in the new location on Tuesday, November 16 and is large enough to accommodate everyone who is eligible for vaccine, including younger patients in a comfortable, kid-friendly space.

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](#)