

Booster Doses for the Public Coming Soon – October 27, 2021

Yesterday, Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry announced British Columbia’s [booster dose immunization plan](#) for targeted groups and the general population; it will be rolled out in a similar priority order as first and second doses of COVID-19 vaccine were. During the final months of 2021, invitations to [book booster doses](#) will be sent to health-care workers who were immunized early in the dose 1 campaign, and with shorter intervals between doses – as well as people over age 70, and Indigenous people aged 12 and up. Starting in January, people in BC who had their second dose at least 6 months earlier, including health-care workers, will get an invitation to book a booster dose. As with Dose 1 and 2, people who are registered with the [Get Vaccinated System](#) will receive an invitation to book their booster shot when it is their turn. If you received your first dose early last year, prior to the implementation of the ImmunizeBC Get Vaccinated platform, you must [register yourself](#) in order to receive notification of when you will be able to book your booster dose. Health authorities will once again schedule whole-of-community immunization clinics in collaboration with the First Nation Health Authority (FNHA), where appropriate to provide boosters to rural and remote and Indigenous communities. Indigenous Peoples in urban settings will also be offered vaccines through health authority clinics, pharmacies or in their local communities with assistance from FNHA.

COVID-19 Immunization Plan – Next steps

September – December 2021		January* – May 2022	
Booster & Dose 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Clinically extremely vulnerable (immunosuppressed) – Dose 3 ✓ Rural and remote Indigenous communities ✓ Residents in long-term care and assisted living 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seniors (starting 70+) and Indigenous Peoples (12+) • Long-term home support clients and seniors in independent living • Health care workers - short interval of Dose 1/Dose 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinically extremely vulnerable (non-immunosuppressed) • Health care workers in acute care and long-term care, assisted living • Health care workers in the community • All remaining eligible people (12+) between 6 to 8 months
	Outbreak management and outreach to vulnerable and congregate settings		
		Kids 5 to 11	<p>Dose 1 for children aged 5 to 11.</p> <p>PENDING HEALTH CANADA APPROVAL</p> <p>Parents can register their kid(s) in the Get Vaccinated system now to get ready. Once approved by Health Canada, kids can get vaccinated at clinics.</p>
Dose 1 & 2	<p>Dose 1 and dose 2 for people who haven't yet been vaccinated</p>	<p>People can register in the Get Vaccinated system to book an appointment for their first or second dose and get vaccinated at clinics</p>	

*Estimated timeline is subject to vaccine approval and supply.

COVID-19 IN BC

As a reminder, [according to the BCCDC](#), “physical distancing or maintaining a distance of two metres between two or more people is no longer required, and capacity limits for higher occupancy waiting rooms/areas are no longer required.” The Province of BC is beginning to say the phrase “use a respectful distance” which can be different for individuals based on cultural norms and personal preferences. In addition, clinics are no longer required to have a COVID-19 safety site plan, and are instead required to have and use a communicable disease plan according to [WorkSafeBC](#).

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
1,371,762	91.9%	91.6%	87.3%

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

[Reminder: Physicians can Meet Together on Site](#)

As outlined in Step 3 of the BC Restart Plan, workplaces are allowed to hold seminars and meetings with general COVID precautions in place.

[BCCDC Guidance on Serology](#)

For clarity, there are no changes to BCCDC Guidelines on Serology and requests for testing are discouraged.

[BC ECHO for Post-COVID-19 Recovery – Session 5 \(November 9, 2021, 12-1pm\)](#)

Based on the [global ECHO model](#), the BCECHO for Post-COVID-19 Recovery is a free virtual learning community of specialists and community health care providers who use instructive and case-based learning to improve care for patients recovering from symptoms post COVID-19.

[Pronouncement of Death in LTC Recommendations & MRP Notification of Death Form](#)

The Vic-SI Long-term Care Initiative (LTCI) in collaboration with the South Island Long-term Care (LTC) Medical Advisory Committee and the Island Health Long-term Care Quality Council have developed recommendations and a form to streamlined care home communication with MRPs and provide a consistent approach to the pronouncement of death in LTC.

- The BC Coroners Service have compiled a FAQ, [Working with the Coroner](#) to support decision-making on when to report a death to the Coroner.

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](#)