

June 2, 2021 – Case Counts Dropping as Regional Immunization Improves

With the British Columbia (BC) [Restart Plan](#) underway, Dr. Bonnie Henry asked all British Columbians to remain vigilant about COVID-19 until more people have received their second dose of vaccine as outbreaks continue to pop up, despite a sharply declining caseload. The Island Health region is expecting marginal increases in cases following long-weekend activities, however regional cases continue to significantly decline each week, with only two positive patients in hospital and single-digit percentage results for untraceable cases. Island Health continues to balance both mass immunization clinics and [whole-of-community](#) approaches, and has ensured that over 70% of the 18+ adult population has received their first dose – which is comparatively 10% higher than the Canadian average.

Island Health 1 st Dose Vaccines Administered To Date (+18)	% Population Immunized - 1st Dose To Date (+18)
521, 559	71.2%

Public Health Agency of Canada updated recommendations yesterday from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommending the interchangeability of approved COVID-19 vaccines (see below) – these are recommendations to be clear and Dr. Henry is expected to lay out BC's plan tomorrow. Dr. Henry has repeatedly underscored that all approved vaccines are safe for the public and can be safely combined for effective protection. In addition, the time interval between doses has also been updated, and people can now book and receive second doses 7 weeks or 49 days following their first dose. Although extremely rare, a man in his 30s is recovering well in an Island Health hospital after developing vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia (VITT), after receiving the AstraZeneca vaccine; early detection and treatment aided recovery.

STEP	Criteria	PHO Guidance	Personal Gatherings	Organized Gatherings	Travel	Sports & Activities	Businesses	Offices & Workplaces
1 MAY 25	C: stable H: stable D1: 60%	Masks mandatory, indoor public spaces Physical distancing If sick, stay home and get tested	Outdoor personal gatherings – up to 10 people Indoor visitors – up to 5 people or 1 household	Indoor seated organized gatherings – up to 10 people Outdoor seated organized gatherings – up to 50 people	Recreational travel within your zone Non-essential travel between zones restricted	Low-intensity indoor fitness classes Outdoor local team games and practices for all ages – no spectators	Indoor & outdoor dining – up to 6 people Liquor service - 10PM Existing WorkSafeBC Safety Plans remain in place	Start gradual return to workplaces and offices Existing Safety Plans remain in place
2 JUNE 15 (Earliest date)	C: declining H: declining D1: 65%	Masks mandatory, indoor public spaces Physical distancing If sick, stay home and get tested	Outdoor personal gatherings – up to 50 people Indoor visitors – up to 5 people or 1 household Playdates	Indoor seated organized gatherings – up to 50 people Sector consultations on next steps on indoor and outdoor gatherings	BC recreational travel BC Transit and BC Ferries – increased services as needed	High-intensity indoor fitness classes - reduced capacity Indoor team games for all ages – no spectators Spectators for outdoor sports – up to 50 people	Liquor service – midnight Banquet halls reopen – limited capacity, Safety Plans Sector consultations on next steps on easing of restrictions	Continue return to work Small in-person meetings
3 JULY 1 (Earliest date)	C: low H: declining D1: 70%	Masks – recommended Careful social contact If sick, stay home and get tested	Return to usual on indoor and outdoor personal gatherings Sleepovers	Increased capacity, indoor and outdoor gatherings – Safety Plan Fairs & festivals with Safety Plan	Canada recreational travel	All indoor fitness classes – increased capacity Limited spectators for indoor sports	Dining – no group limit Bingo halls, casinos and nightclubs – limited capacity Operate based on new Safety Plans	Seminars and bigger meetings Operate based on new Safety Plans
4 SEPT 7 (Earliest date)	C: low H: low D1: 70%+	Masks – personal choice Normal social contact If sick, stay home and get tested	Normal social contact	Increased capacity on large organized gatherings (i.e. concerts)	Canada recreational travel	Increased indoor and outdoor spectators Return of normal sport competitions – Safety Plans	Continue to operate based on new Safety Plans	Fully re-opened offices and workplaces

C: C-19 case counts H: C-19 hospitalizations D1: minimum % of people 18+ with dose 1

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

[Interchangeability of Authorized COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

The Public Health Agency of Canada released updated recommendations from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) on the interchangeability of authorized COVID-19 vaccines (also referred to as ‘mixed vaccine schedules’), and recommended that:

- Persons who received a first dose of the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine may receive either AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine or an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) for their second dose, unless contraindicated.
- Persons who received a first dose of an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) should be offered the same mRNA vaccine for their second dose. If the same mRNA vaccine is not readily available or unknown, another mRNA vaccine can be considered interchangeable and should be offered to complete the vaccine series.

[Naming SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern \(VOCs\) without Stigma](#)

To assist with public discussions of variants, World Health Organization (WHO) convened a group of scientists from several countries and agencies to consider easy-to-pronounce and non-stigmatizing labels for VOCs.

- WHO has recommended using letters of the Greek Alphabet, i.e., Alpha, Beta, Gamma, which will be easier and more practical to discuss by non-scientific audiences.

[BCCDC COVID-19 Surveillance Dashboard](#)

This British Columbia Center for Disease Control (BCCDC) dashboard uses provincial health authority data to generate graphs for COVID-19 cases and case rate per 100,000 population in BC.

[Island Health Primary Care Grand Rounds](#)

June 24, 2021 8:00am - 9:00am | US/Pacific

Medical Assistance in Dying: Program Update &
Understanding the New Legislation - Dr. David Robertson

Why not make things interesting and [ask a question?](#)

Objectives:

- Improved understanding of what the MAID program can and can not do;
- Sufficient knowledge of the new laws to enable Primary Care Physicians to complete a MAID assessment;
- Improved understanding of the place of MAID in the spectrum of palliative and end of life care.



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](#)
- <https://www.doctorsofbc.ca/news/cev-attestation-form-available-doctors>

Frequently Asked Questions:

- [ImmunizeBC FAQ](#)