

June 30, 2021 – British Columbia (BC) Enters Step 3 of Restart Plan July 1st

Yesterday, Premier John Horgan announced that BC is moving into [Step 3 of the Restart Plan](#) and lifting the state of emergency at midnight tonight. Dr. Bonnie Henry also said the vaccination program is the game changer that has allowed us to move forward. With BC’s vaccination coverage amongst the highest in the world, we have collectively transformed our ability to live safely with COVID-19. The public masking mandate is being replaced with a recommendation that everyone age 12 and up who has not been fully vaccinated – meaning they have received their second shot and had 14 days for it to build antibody protection – should continue to wear masks in indoor public spaces. To be clear, primary care providers, patients and visitors are still mandated to follow the provincial mask policy for healthcare facilities. A key summary of Step 3 changes for the public is provided in the section below.

BC's Restart Step 3: Starting July 1

 Recreational travel in Canada	 Wear masks indoors until fully vaccinated	 Dining - no group limits, regular liquor service	 Sports and exercise - return to normal
 Indoor organized gatherings - 50 people or 50% capacity, whichever greater	 Outdoor organized gatherings - 5,000 people or 50% capacity, whichever greater	 Personal gatherings - return to normal	 Fairs and festivals - return to normal

BC'S RESTART

Island Health acute facilities are experiencing extremely high patient volumes, exacerbated by the recent heat wave. Emergency Department visits, admissions and overall patient volumes are expected to continue to be high now through the end of the weekend. Island Health is taking all proactive measures possible to keep our sites, facilities, patients and teams cool during this environmental event.

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
850,313	77.6%	76.5%	31.8%

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

BC Restart Plan: Step 3 Highlights

The following is a key summary of the highlights:

- **Masks are recommended in public indoor settings for people 12 and older who are not yet fully vaccinated (14 days after receiving a second dose).**
 - Primary care providers, patients and visitors are still mandated to follow the provincial mask policy for healthcare facilities
- **Gatherings can begin to return to normal (with some limits)**
 - Return to normal for indoor and outdoor personal gatherings and sleepovers
 - Indoor organized gatherings 50 people or 50% capacity
 - Outdoor organized gatherings 5,000 people or 50% capacity
 - No limits or restrictions on religious gatherings and worship services
- **Welcoming people from other provinces to BC**
 - Use caution until you are fully vaccinated
 - Plan ahead and know the expectations at other destinations
- **Business restrictions relaxing**
 - Employers can now transition from pandemic safety plans to communicable disease safety plans
 - Restaurants/bars/pubs can remove group limits for indoor/outdoor dining
 - Casinos/nightclubs can open with capacity limits and safety measures
 - Indoor fitness classes and sporting activities can resume as normal

South Island Covid-19 Assessment Clinic Hours Change

- Referrals to the two South Island COVID-19 Assessment Clinic have been on the decline. As a result, clinic hours will be reduced to half days Sunday to Friday, starting July 5th. Appointments continue to require a referral from a primary care provider.
 - [COVID-19 Assessment Clinic Referral Form](#)

BCCDC: mRNA Vaccine Effectiveness (VE): 1st Dose

- The BCCDC shared a [new infographic](#) summarizing 1st dose mRNA vaccine effectiveness finding stemming from [a new BCCDC study](#).
 - These BCCDC findings are the first globally to show that a single dose of mRNA vaccine protects against the Gamma variant. Substantial 1st dose protection in older adults reinforces the option to defer the 2nd dose where vaccine supply is scarce and broader 1st dose coverage is needed.

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](#)