



April 14, 2021 – State of Emergency Extended and Cases Rising

Due to increasing infection rates and the need to protect our healthcare resources it is essential that people continue to carefully observe public health restrictions and get tested right away if needed. The [state of emergency](#) in British Columbia is extended through end of the day on April 27, 2021, and is based on recommendations from B.C.'s health and emergency management officials.

People born in 1971 or earlier (age 50+) can [register in the provincial booking system](#). People born in 1956 or earlier (age 64+) and Indigenous people 18+, and individuals who have received their 'clinically extremely vulnerable' letter are now eligible to receive their vaccine. People 55 to 65 may also [book appointments](#) for the AstraZeneca vaccine at pharmacies throughout the province. While anyone can register for appointment bookings, BC is encouraging people to do so according to age cohorts to avoid overwhelming the system.

Dr. Bonnie Henry recently shared that the new provincial essential worker program is focused on immunizing transmission hot spots in high-risk workplaces in our highest-risk communities. Initially, vaccine in the province was distributed on a per-capita basis. The new program prioritizes the immunization of first responders, school staff and child care workers which is not yet underway within the Island Health region due to the focus in hot spots in highest risk communities. As of April 14th, we've seen 341 new cases of COVID-19 in the Vancouver Coastal Health region, 632 new cases in the Fraser Health region, 64 in the Island Health region, 105 in the Interior Health region, 26 in the Northern Health region and no new cases of people who reside outside of Canada.

Significant pressure is mounting on the provincial healthcare system. Island Health acute care teams are experiencing higher volume emergency in-patient admissions, higher acute care length of stays (+2 weeks), higher surgical volumes, and higher acuity and complexity of cases across sites. Acute care teams face capacity challenges, especially in Nanaimo Regional and Royal Jubilee Hospitals and average COVID-19 total positive cases are reaching ~50-60 per day in the Island Health region, with more young people becoming sick with severe symptoms. Vaccine delivery is now only limited by vaccine availability, and a one-day record of 6,953 immunizations within the Island region was just achieved this week with over 25% of the region's adult population having received at least one dose.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

[Vaccination for the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable](#) – Medical Health Officers Newsletter No. 330

- Increasingly, people are presenting to COVID-19 vaccination sites with letters-of-support from healthcare providers for prioritized vaccination. This is outside of the established provincial process and is leading to a strain on clinic resources to manage these discussions, and leading to disappointed patients.
- Only those who meet criteria as clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) can be provided an attestation by a physician or nurse practitioner that they are eligible for prioritized vaccination. [Please see the link to](#) the provincial process.

[End of Day Doses at Mass Immunization Sites](#)

- Remaining end of day doses at Island Health immunization clinics are not for patients or members of the public who have not scheduled their vaccination. [Read](#) about the ways people can register for vaccination, and share the word that it is not our practice to issue any remaining doses to people who go to immunization clinics without a booked appointment for vaccination. Island Health tightly manages our vaccine supply and ensures that any leftover vaccine is prioritized for eligible populations. We do not maintain a standby list.

Reminder: Assessing & Managing COVID-19 Patients

- [Quick Guide](#): Assessing COVID-19 Patients (by voice or video call)
- [BCCDC Guidance](#): Primary Care Management of Adult Outpatients with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19

[Changes to Medication Documentation](#)

- To improve the experience and workflow of Documenting Best Possible Medication History (BPMH) all medication prescriptions will be documented "as prescribed" electronically in PowerChart.

[Primary Care Grand Rounds - Thursday, April 22, 2021 - 8:00am to 9:00am](#)

- *Vaccines and Variants: A COVID-19 Update with Dr. Reka Gustafson*
- Presenter: Dr. Reka Gustafson MD FRCPC
Vice President, Public Health and Wellness, Provincial Health Services Authority & Deputy Provincial Health Officer of British Columbia
- Why not make things more interesting and [ask a question?](#)



[April 16th is National Advance Care Planning Day](#)

- April 16th is National Advance Care Planning Day and the national theme for 2021 is Advance Care Planning: An Essential Conversation for Everyone – [read](#) about what we are teaching and promoting across Island Health.

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](#)