



April 7, 2021 – Now in Phase 3 with New Online Vaccination Registration System

The new provincial [Get Vaccinated Booking and Registration System](#) launched yesterday morning – and by 2pm yesterday, more than 160,000 British Columbians had registered, with nearly 24,000 eligible people booking vaccination appointments. For people in the 55-65 year demographic, Health Minister Adrian Dix shared yesterday that more than 200,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine will be distributed to select pharmacies around the province this week. In Island Health, this includes pharmacies in Parksville, Nanaimo and Victoria. Some pharmacies such as Shoppers Drug Mart, are allowing people to register online. We will share information about how and where people can be immunized with this supply as soon as we learn more from the BC Pharmacy Association.

Dr. Henry also provided new information yesterday about how and where Variants of Concern (VoC) are spreading in BC. All of the new 207 BCCDC confirmed variants reported yesterday are from the Lower Mainland (266 active VoC), representing 31% of active cases in BC. Of the 328 people hospitalized with COVID-19 right now – 63 have VoC (42 B117 and 20 P1). The P1 variant is primarily in the Lower Mainland, although six of the total 20 VoC cases in Island Health are P1 variant. It's important to know that there is a time delay before a VoC can be confirmed by the BCCDC – and because variants have a 'competitive advantage' in transmissibility, that number is expected to increase. 90% of positive cases in BC are now being screened for VoC.



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

[Registration for Vaccination Appointments](#)

Starting at noon April 6, 2021, people born in 1951 and earlier (70 and older), Indigenous peoples 18 and older, and those who are clinically extremely vulnerable may register to book their vaccine appointment through the Province's new 'Get Vaccinated' system in one of three ways:

- online at: www.gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated
- by telephone through a provincial call centre (toll-free) at 1 833 838-2323
- in-person at the nearest Service BC location.



Immunization for the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable

- People aged 16 to 74 who are on the [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) list, and who have received their patient [invitation letter](#) can get vaccinated immediately. Letters are mailed to home addresses on file with the patient's Personal Health Number from March 24th to April 15th. The vast majority of patients eligible under the CEV criteria have been identified through provincial registries and will receive a letter.
- If your patient is on the clinically extremely vulnerable list but they have not received their patient invitation letter by April 15 (for example, wrong address on file) they can try booking an appointment using the online [Get Vaccinated registration system](#) or by phoning 1-833-838-2323. Using a patient's Personal Health Number, the registration system or service agent will confirm they are eligible
- If their names have been missed from the provincial list (for example, someone new to the province or who had a remote splenectomy), they will be asked to contact their doctor or nurse practitioner to have an [attestation form](#) confirm their eligibility under the CEV criteria. Once the form is filled out, doctors are to give it or send it to the patient who will then connect with the provincial registration center to book their appointment.
- Patients who have medical conditions other than those outlined under the CEV criteria, are currently not expedited for vaccination.

Suspending use of AstraZeneca for People under age 55

- Based on guidance from Health Canada and the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), the Province is temporarily suspending the use of the AstraZeneca/SII COVISHIELD (AZ/SII) vaccine for people under age 55 until further notice and information is available.
- We recommend you review [AstraZenca safety information](#) from the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC).

Update: Physician and Medical Staff Immunizers

- As of March 31, 2021, we had 271 physicians, 53 midwives and 33 nurse practitioners submit applications to be immunizers, in addition to almost 900 other nursing, allied health and administrative professionals who have applied to join our immunization efforts.
 - Our teams are working hard to collate responses from all sources and ensure proper screening, hiring and onboarding procedures are followed for each profession and role.
 - If you expressed an interest in being an immunizer, thank you! We appreciate your willingness to step up and help in this unprecedented time.

Sincere Thanks to All Participants of the Primary Care COVID 19 Task Group

- As we near the one year mark of the Primary Care COVID 19 Task Group we wanted to take the opportunity to thank these individuals for their commitment and support to this shared work. Together we have worked through many challenging issues and your continued dedication to do this each and every week has allowed us to problem solve, share information, and surface challenges both within our region and the province. This joint table

continues to better connect us and strengthen our partnership. It is our goal that learnings from this approach can be applied to our ongoing primary care work.

Reminder: New Visitor Guidelines for Long-term Care Facilities

- [New visitor guidance](#) in effect since April 1, 2021.

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](#)