

## British Columbia Launches Significant Phase 2 Component

Today, BC officially launched the registration process for seniors age 90 and over, and indigenous people age 65 and over along with Elders. Clinic [locations](#) from Sooke to Port Hardy are now listed online, including a list of communities that will be vaccinated using the whole of community approach.

To facilitate this incredible effort, Island Health is reaching out to Midwives, Nurse Practitioners, and Physicians with an [expression of interest](#) to solicit interest in those wanting to support COVID-19 immunization clinics. If you have already expressed interest in supporting immunization, through either the Doctors of BC Survey or your local Division of Family Practice, there is no need to complete this survey.

With over 60,000 doses already administered in the Island Health region, we are happy to share that we have provided protection to our most vulnerable residents in long-term care and assisted living, over 7,000 members of First Nations communities, and to 25,000 health care workers including primary care providers. Due in part to your outstanding response to the primary care immunization survey, thank you, it is important to celebrate this incredible collective accomplishment.

### WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

#### *Expression of Interest to Administer COVID-19 Vaccine*

- Are you a midwife, nurse practitioner or physician interested in joining the team administering COVID-19 vaccines? We are interested in hearing from current or retired professionals willing to play a variety of roles within one of the immunization clinics across our geography. Island Health invites you to express your interest using an online [form](#).
- There is no need to complete this form if you have already submitted interest through another mechanism.

#### *Phase 1 Missed Vaccinations*

- For any primary care providers who qualified for Phase 1 vaccination (those working in long term care, acute care, a COVID assessment clinic or in a rural and remote community), and may have been missed. Please complete this [online form](#).

#### *Phase 2 Current Vaccine Eligibility*

- Thank you to everyone who completed the primary care immunization survey last week; all names have been sent forward to our call centre and many of you have already received immunization appointments. A similar process to the one noted above for Phase 1 will be shared shortly to capture anyone missed as part of Phase 2.

Phase 1 Dec 2020-Feb 2021	Phase 2 Feb-March 2021
<b>High-risk population</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents, staff, and essential visitors to long-term care and assisted living</li> <li>• Individuals assessed for/awaiting long-term care</li> <li>• Hospital health care workers who may provide care for COVID-19 patients</li> <li>• Remote and isolated Indigenous communities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seniors aged 80+ who are not yet immunized</li> <li>• Indigenous seniors aged 65+, Elders, and additional communities not yet immunized</li> <li>• Hospital staff, community GPs and medical specialists not yet immunized</li> <li>• Vulnerable populations in select congregated settings</li> <li>• Staff in community home support and nursing services for seniors</li> </ul>
Phase 3 April-June 2021	Phase 4 July-Sept 2021
<b>General population</b>	
<p>People aged 79 to 60, in five year increments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 79 to 75</li> <li>• 74 to 70</li> <li>• 69 to 65</li> <li>• 64 to 60</li> <li>• People aged 69 to 16 who are clinically extremely vulnerable</li> </ul>	<p>People aged 59 to 18, in five year increments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 59 to 55</li> <li>• 54 to 50</li> <li>• 49 to 45</li> <li>• 44 to 40</li> <li>• 39 to 35</li> <li>• 34 to 30</li> <li>• 29 to 25</li> <li>• 24 to 18</li> </ul>
<p>Once more vaccines are approved/available, people 64 to 18 yrs who are front-line essential workers or work in specific workplaces/industries may be included later in Phase 3.</p>	

- As of March 8, seniors aged 90+ and indigenous people aged 65+ and Elders who don't currently receive home support services or live in an independent living or a seniors' supportive housing facility, are able to call Island Health to [book their vaccination appointment](#) in their community.

#### *16-Week Extension of the Vaccine Interval for Second-doses*

- The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) provided [evidence](#) that in the context of limited COVID-19 vaccine supply, jurisdictions should maximize the number of individuals benefiting from the first dose of vaccine by extending the interval for the second dose of vaccine to 16 weeks.
- The BC Center for Disease Control (BCCDC) provided scientific [evidence](#) from clinical trials and real world experience to support deferral of the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine to 16 weeks.

#### *COVID-19 Vaccination Patient Information Access*

- All physicians and other providers who have access to PowerChart can access their patients' COVID-19 vaccination information using CareConnect and our [guidance document](#).

#### *Primary Care Grand Rounds*

- [Primary Care Grand Rounds](#) are taking place March 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:00-9:00am – Learn more about prevalence, pathophysiology and symptomatology of post-COVID 19 syndrome and resources for primary care providers.

## 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](#)