

May 19, 2021 – All People 18+ Now Eligible for 1st Dose Appointment Registrations



Today is British Columbia Family Doctor Day and it’s the perfect time to celebrate the value of relationship-based, comprehensive, longitudinal care provided by family physicians. Thank you to all physicians and please read the [special message](#) from Dr. Ben Williams.

Primary care providers in the Island Health region are encouraged to invite their patients and all members of the community 18 years of age and older to register to [book an appointment](#) for vaccination. Age-based cohorts are no longer relevant for vaccine appointment registration, however, Health Minister Adrian Dix said today that British Columbia’s COVID-19 vaccination program is immediately accepting registrations and booking appointments for children aged 12 to 17. More details on the vaccination of under-18s will be provided at the briefing scheduled for 2 p.m. on Thursday with the Minister and Dr. Henry.

Given the limited availability of AstraZeneca, BC is now holding all remaining AstraZeneca vaccine for second doses. Existing pharmacy bookings will proceed, but no additional appointments will be accepted at this time. Dr. Henry [noted](#), “We are also awaiting the findings of studies currently underway on interchangeability of COVID-19 vaccines, as well as guidance from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization. This will help determine our approach and options for second doses.” Those who received a dose of AstraZeneca vaccine will be given a choice as to what vaccine they receive for their second. Dr. Henry also indicated that the gap between doses may be reduced down from 16 weeks in the near term, and that “it’s likely for all of the vaccines that we have, as supply has come in, we’ll be able to move up second doses for everybody.” Island Health has taken a “[whole of community approach](#)” to vaccination in some small and remote communities in our region, and we are pleased to report that almost all clinics have completed 1st dose immunization with only a few exceptions.



Island Health Total Vaccines Administered To Date	% Population Immunized - 1st Dose To Date
454, 104	57.3%

Second Dose Vaccine for Healthcare Workers

- B.C.'s COVID-19 immunization plan currently calls for a 16-week interval between first and second doses of vaccine.
 - Island Health's call centre is calling all health-care providers who were immunized on or before February 21 to book their second dose appointments in May.
 - If you are in this group and do not receive a call to make an appointment by Wednesday, May 19th, please call Island Health's call centre at 1-844-439-1919 and press 1.
 - Anyone immunized after February 21 **must register with the provincial registration system in order to book your second dose appointment.**
 - Please register now by going to www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca or calling 1-833-838-2323.

COVID-19 Vaccination for Pregnant and Breast-Feeding Woman

- The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) released a statement supporting vaccination of pregnant and breast-feeding woman.
 - *Inadvertent pregnancy following vaccination*
 - Individuals who are discovered to be pregnant during their vaccine series or shortly afterward should not be counselled to terminate pregnancy based on having received the vaccine. If conception is presumed to predate the first dose, it is recommended to follow the same procedures for active surveillance (as available) as would be activated if the pregnancy was known at the time of vaccination. Where pregnancy is detected during the vaccine series (i.e. following the first dose, but ahead of the second dose), pregnant individuals should continue to be offered the opportunity to complete their vaccination series. The decision of whether to complete the vaccine series during pregnancy should be based on an assessment of the potential risks of not being completely vaccinated during pregnancy, compared to the potential risks of receiving the vaccine during pregnancy (as discussed above). Pregnant individuals should not be precluded or forced to delay the vaccine series in any trimester.
 - *Individuals contemplating pregnancy*
 - Ideally, an individual would be immunized against COVID-19 ahead of pregnancy to benefit from maximal vaccine efficacy throughout the entire pregnancy. It is not known whether an individual should delay pregnancy following receipt of the vaccine, and a risk-benefit discussion for those planning pregnancy should occur similar to the discussion for vaccination of pregnant and breastfeeding individuals.

New BCCDC Guidance on Clinical Treatment of Outpatients with COVID-19

- The BC COVID-19 Therapeutics Committee meets regularly to discuss the most current research on the use/misuse of therapies in the management of COVID-19.
 - Please refer to the latest treatment recommendations (see pages 5-6), which are revised regularly as evidence changes.
 - *Inhaled budesonide 800 µg BID twice daily x 14 days may be considered*
 - *Colchicine 0.6 mg PO BID x 3 days, then 0.6 mg PO daily x 27 days may be considered*

BC Family Doctors Guidance on Determining In-Person or Virtual Care Visits

- As family physicians begin to expand their use of in-person care during the COVID-19 pandemic, physicians are now being asked to determine which patient care services should be conducted in-person and which should be conducted by phone/video.
 - *How do you balance the benefits and risks of providing in-person or virtual care for patients?*
 - [Beyond Essential Services in Primary Care](#) provides a framework to assist with this question, based on the work of Dr. Tara Kiran and the BC Health Quality Matrix
 - *What is the most appropriate modality for each patient care service?*
 - [Determining Clinical Appropriateness for Virtual Care Visits](#) provides guidance for how to approach this question, based on recommendations from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC (CPSBC) and the CMA Virtual Care Playbook.

New BC Ministry of Health Guidance on Visitors in Acute Care

- The BC Ministry of Health has updated new visitation guidance for acute care, and while there are not any big changes on who qualifies as an essential visitor, we have reached a point in our pandemic response where we have the opportunity to reflect on and refresh how we currently support visits within the policy.
 - *A permitted essential visit involves:*
 - Someone identified by the patient as a necessary support including cultural or spiritual support; and is
 - Someone the patient wants involved in their care and health matters; and is
 - A relative, legal representative, close friend, or formal / informal caregiver.
 - *Social visits that are not permitted involve:*
 - Someone not involved in the patient's health-care or support needs; or
 - Someone whose time with the patient is discretionary and usually temporary; or
 - Visiting for purposes that are more social in nature.

Survey Request: Ambulatory Care and Outpatients Survey

- Ambulatory Care (AC) includes a range of services delivered to patients who do not require admission to an inpatient bed. These services include: diagnostic tests, day surgeries, medical procedures, consultations and intravenous infusions or medication. Across BC, these services have experienced a 32% growth over the last 15 years and patients seeking care are more complex.
 - To address these challenges, Drs. Al Buckley, Jeff Kerrie, and Keith Menard have been awarded two Health System Redesign Grants and request completion of their [survey](#) to find out what matters most to you.

Reminder: Canadian Medical Association Virtual Care Playbook

- Developed in March 2020, this playbook was written to help Canadian physicians introduce virtual patient encounters (aka telemedicine) into their daily practices. It is intended to be a virtual care platform and vendor agnostic. It focuses on video visits, through phone calls and patient messaging are also categorized as virtual care. While not exhaustive, the playbook covers all key considerations to succeed at providing safe, effective and efficient care.

[Updated: BCCDC Primary Care Page](#)

- In response to direct feedback from the Primary Care COVID-19 Working Group feedback, please review the updated content and refreshed layout of the BCCDC Primary Care page.

[Island Health Primary Care Grand Rounds](#)

Thursday, May 27, 2021 8:00am - 9:00am | US/Pacific

Dementia Management: Medication & More - Dr. Marilyn Malone

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



Objectives:

- Know when to start, stop, or switch cholinesterase inhibitors and/or memantine
- Understand risks and benefits of other medications and their non-pharmacological alternatives in symptom management
- Avoid common pitfalls when evaluating treatment effectiveness

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](#)