

**Mandatory Vaccination for Healthcare Workers & Immunization Plan for Kids Coming – October 13, 2021**

This week in British Columbia (BC) people who are not fully vaccinated accounted for 68.1 per cent of cases from Oct. 4 to Oct. 10 and 73.7 per cent of hospitalizations from Sept. 27 to Oct. 10, underscoring the importance of vaccination against COVID-19. Yesterday, the [mandatory vaccination order for long-term care and assisted living](#) came into effect, and the Public Health Order for acute and community care is anticipated to be posted on the Provincial Health Officer’s [website](#) soon. The order, which takes effect on October 26<sup>th</sup>, applies to all Island Health staff and medical staff, clinical and non-clinical, working in any setting – including at home. “It is very broad, [because we know] transmission causes strain on the system if health-care workers are infected. But, it also can mean transmission to those who are most vulnerable to severe illness,” Dr. Henry said. Similar to provisions that allow health-care workers who have had their first dose to continue working, visitors who are partially immunized will be allowed with additional precautions in place, and will need to be fully immunized by October 26<sup>th</sup>. Island Health [vaccination clinics](#) are accepting walk-ins.



Dr. Henry is giving consideration to third doses for certain communities. So far, only seniors in long-term care homes and people who are clinically extremely vulnerable have been offered a third dose of the vaccines. Those with moderate-severe [immunocompromising conditions](#) may be offered a third dose based on NACI guidance. Information on the efficacy of this approach is available on the [National Advisory Committee on Immunization \(NACI\) website](#).

BC is developing its strategy for immunizing children. Officials are encouraging families to register their children for the shot through the provincial [Get Vaccinated](#) portal. Parents who register will receive a notification when it's time to book a vaccine appointment for their child. Pfizer has requested Health Canada approve its vaccine for kids aged 5 to 11, and children aged five and older are now included in the [public health order](#) mandating masks for indoor public spaces in B.C.

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
<b>1,340,710</b>	<b>91.2%</b>	<b>90.9%</b>	<b>85.1%</b>

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

### [Primary Care Update Session: New Resources and FAQs from Medical Health Officers & Public Health](#)

On October 7<sup>th</sup> Dr. Sandra Allison & Dr. Mike Benusic provided a Medical Health Officer update alongside their colleagues from Infection Prevention and Control. The provided document was created using information that was shared during the presentations.

### [COVID-19 Infection Prevention and Control: Guidance for Primary Care Practitioners, Community-Based Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Nurses and Midwives in Clinic Settings](#)

According to the BCCDC, “physical distancing or maintaining a distance of two metres between two or more people is no longer required, and “capacity limits for higher occupancy waiting rooms/areas are no longer required. The Province of BC is beginning to use the phrase “use a respectful distance”, which can be different for individuals based on cultural norms and personal preferences. In addition, clinics are no longer required to have a COVID-19 safety site plan, and are instead required to have and use a [communicable disease plan according to WorkSafeBC](#). Employers must also be prepared to implement additional prevention measures as required by a medical health officer or the provincial health officer to deal with communicable diseases in their workplace or region, should those be necessary.

### [BC’s Provincial Summit on Aging – RSVP for Information Session on Social Prescribing](#)

Social prescribing - the practice of medical practitioners connecting patients to community supports to improve health and well-being - was pioneered in the U.K. and is now gaining a foothold in Canada. Join for an [information session on October 19<sup>th</sup>](#) to learn about how social prescribing emerged and evolved, evidence of its effectiveness, and how it is being implemented in Canada.

### [Find a COVID-19 Immunization Clinic](#)

- Find Island Health region [immunization clinic listings](#).

## 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](#)