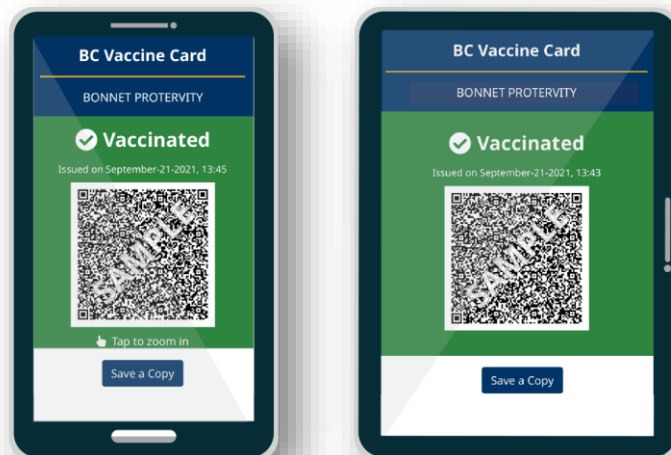


Mandatory Vaccination for Healthcare Workers & Indoor Capacity Limits Lifting – October 20, 2021

On October 14th, Dr. Bonnie Henry issued a new [public health order](#) (PHO). It requires employees in the health sector to be fully vaccinated (two doses) against COVID-19 by October 26, 2021. Staff and medical staff who are partially vaccinated (i.e. one dose) may be permitted to continue working past October 26, provided they follow preventive measures, until they receive their second dose, which must be within 35 days of their first dose. Primary care providers working in private practice should speak with their Division of Family Practice and Doctors of BC to fully understand the impacts of the provincial order on private practice.



Capacity limits currently in place for indoor sporting events, concerts, live theatre, movie theatres, dance, art events, weddings, funeral receptions, and other gatherings such as parties, will be removed starting October 25th where there isn't a regional public health order in effect. The change will be in place the day after the [BC Vaccine Card](#) system requires two doses of vaccine in order to access non-essential settings and events.

The latest data from public health about COVID-19 and kids has been posted on the BCCDC website. It shows within BC cases in 5-11 year olds peaked in late September, and was highest in communities with low vaccination rates. In the past week, there have been four children four years old and younger admitted, one child 5-11 years old, and one aged 12-17 – none required critical care. Dr. Richard Stanwick signalled at this week's Medical and Leadership Townhalls that we are seeing a small reduction in the number of average new cases per day in the region, including in pediatric populations. Thankfully child cases are down, and severe illness in kids remains very rare with more information available in the [situation report for K-12 schools](#).

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
1,358,003	91.7%	91.4%	86.5%

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

[Chief Medical Health Officer Influenza Letter to Primary Care Providers](#)

Influenza vaccination is of critical importance this season because of the COVID-19 pandemic, vaccination will help reduce the impact on the healthcare system. Please stress the importance of influenza vaccination with your high risk

patients and healthcare colleagues, as well as those who are in direct, regular contact with medically high risk individuals. Influenza vaccination is available by [appointment](#).

Updates for the influenza vaccine campaign:

1. [Universal Eligibility](#) – BCCDC 2021/22 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Eligibility
2. Physician Billing Info - For physician billings, two temporary 2021/22 respiratory immunization fees are now effective and operational. The attached broadcast message was sent with the end of September remittance.

BCFD has also posted information on their website (see <https://bcfamilydocs.ca/billing-for-respiratory-immunizations-in-2021-2022/>).

[Valid Contraindications & Deferrals to COVID-19 Vaccination](#)

Exemptions from the PHO Orders can only be made on [medical grounds](#) by the PHO. Everyone who seeks an exemption will receive an ‘acknowledgement of receipt’ of that exemption from the PHO office. This IS NOT a confirmation that the request is being considered. After acknowledging receipt – the exemption request will get reviewed and if it meets the criteria will be considered for exemption.

[BCCDC List of Qualified COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

BC recognizes all World Health Organization (WHO) Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) authorized vaccines. This document is intended to provide health care providers with approaches for individuals who have received COVID-19 vaccination outside of Canada. The WHO list of EUA qualified COVID-19 vaccines will be updated over time as additional COVID-19 vaccines receive emergency use listing, and as such, this document will be updated accordingly.

[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.

[Doctors of BC Hosts Physician Safety Webinar](#)

Thursday, October 28, 2021 from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. (PDT).

Doctors of BC is providing practical advice and recommendations to help manage some of the difficult clinical encounters physicians have been experiencing related to vaccine exemptions, and other expectations related to the pandemic. Areas of focus will include physician responsibilities/obligations, managing and de-escalating conflict situations, and staff support/training.

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

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](#)