

March 03, 2021



PLEASE POST

## COVID – 19 UPDATE 27

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Due to the rapidly changing circumstances surrounding COVID-19 and its impact on workers, program support criteria are subject to change. Be sure to visit [www.unifor.org/covid19](http://www.unifor.org/covid19) to download updated versions of the fact sheets available to our members and their families.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/seniors>



- Vaccine call centres for seniors open March 8, 2021. You can book a vaccine appointment for yourself or your spouse. You can also have a family member or friend call for you. It's easy and safe to book over the phone.
- Last updated: **March 2, 2021**

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### When you can call is based on your age

**I'm born in 1931 or earlier (90+) or I'm Indigenous and born in 1956 or earlier (65+)**

Please call the week of March 8.

**I'm born in 1936 or earlier (85+)**

- Please call the week of March 15.

**I'm born in 1941 or earlier (80+)**

- Please call the week of March 22.
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## Get ready to call

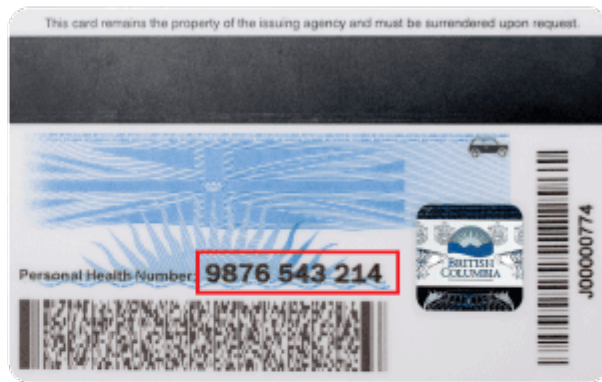
When you call your health authority, you'll be asked for:

- First and last name
- Date of birth
- Postal code
- Personal Health Number

You can find your Personal Health Number on the back of your B.C. driver's licence, BC Services Card or CareCard. If you do not have a Personal Health Number, you can still receive the vaccine.

We'll also ask you for contact information:

- An email address that gets checked regularly  
**or**
- A phone number that can receive text messages
- **We will never ask you for your SIN, driver's licence number or banking and credit card details.**



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## I'm calling for myself

- Here's what happens when you call:
  - The phone agent verifies your age and asks for your personal information
  - You work with the phone agent to select an appointment time slot at a clinic close to home
  - The phone agent confirms your appointment time and clinic location
  - If you've provided contact information, you get a confirmation message sent by email or text

## I'm calling on behalf of someone

- Here's what happens when you call on behalf of someone:
  - The phone agent verifies who you are calling for and asks you to provide their age and personal information
  - You work with the phone agent to select an appointment time slot at a clinic close to the home of the person you're calling for
  - The phone agent confirms the appointment time and clinic location
  - If you've provided contact information, you get a confirmation message sent by email or text

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## Select your health authority and call

- All call centres open March 8. The first day appointments are available is March 15.
- **Not sure who to call?** [Find out what health authority you live in.](#)

### Call centre hours

**Seven days a week**  
**7 am to 7 pm (PST/PDT)**

- Phone lines may be busy.

**Fraser Health**      **tel:+1-855-755-2455**

Starting March 8, if you live in the Fraser Health Authority, you have the option to book online.

**Interior Health**      **tel:+1-877-740-7747**

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**Island Health**      **tel:+1-833-348-4787**

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**Northern Health** tel:+1-844-255-7555

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**Vancouver Coastal Health** tel:+1-877-587-5767

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## What to expect at the vaccine clinic

- Only people who are eligible will get their vaccine dose. You will be turned away from the clinic if your age group is not yet eligible.
- As part of [Phase 2](#), you will get either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine. A choice will not be offered.

### Arrive prepared

- Get ready for your appointment:
  - Wear a short-sleeved shirt and a mask
  - Arrive a few minutes before your scheduled appointment time
- You can bring one person with you for support.
- All clinics are wheelchair accessible. You will be provided a mask if you need one.

### During the appointment

- At the clinic you will:
    - Complete a check-in process
    - Get your vaccine dose
    - Wait in an observation area for about 15 minutes
  - You can expect to be at the clinic for 30 minutes in total.
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## I still have questions

- Need help? Talk to a Service BC agent about non-health related information and services related to COVID-19. Service is available 7:30 am to 8 pm.
  - Call: [1-888-COVID19](tel:1-888-COVID19)
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Can't see this email properly? [View Online](#)

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# THE COVID-19 BRIEF

<http://links.bellmedia-ctv.mkt4301.com/servlet/MailView?ms=MzMxMTkwMzYS1&r=MzExNTI5NTE5OTU5S0&j=MTkwMzEyNzUwNgS2&mt=1&rt=0>

## CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

*Your resource for cutting through fear and misinformation. Check your email for trusted reporting and analysis to help differentiate between fact and fiction.*

Follow [the latest updates](#) and read [full coverage](#)

**The outbreak by the numbers** (as of 12:00 p.m. EST Wednesday, March 1, 2021):

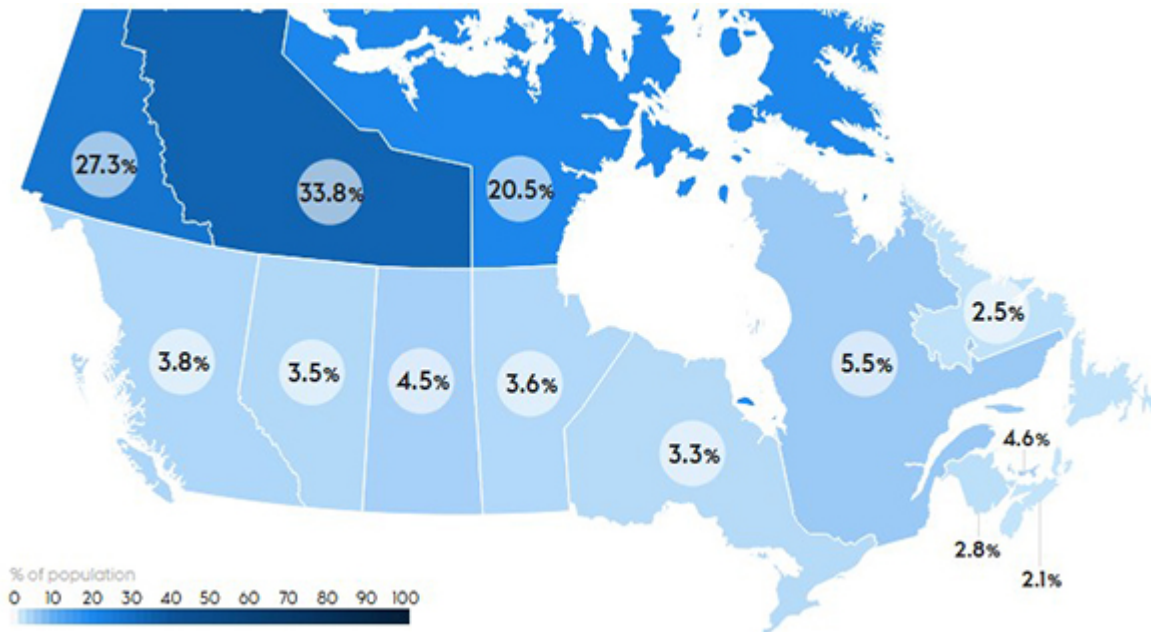
- **Canada:** 874,435 cases | 29,993 active | 22,081 deceased
- **Globally:** 114,912,129 cases | 65,025,502 recovered | 2,552,687 deceased

**Vaccinations by the numbers** (as of 12:00 p.m. EST Wednesday, March 1, 2021)

- **Globally:** 212,146,227 doses administered | 2.72% of population
- **Canada:** 1,513,000 first doses | 545,908 second doses | 3.98%
- **British Columbia:** 196,645 first doses | 86,537 second doses | 3.82%
- **Alberta:** 156,515 first doses | 88,539 second doses | 3.53%
- **Saskatchewan:** 53,218 first doses | 27,018 second doses | 4.52%
- **Manitoba:** 49,042 first doses | 29,163 second doses | 3.55%
- **Ontario:** 487,709 first doses | 266,710 second doses | 3.31%
- **Quebec:** 472,710 first doses | 0 second doses | 5.51%
- **New Brunswick:** 21,599 first doses | 12,142 second doses | 2.76%
- **Nova Scotia:** 20,580 first doses | 12,891 second doses | 2.1%
- **Prince Edward Island:** 7,377 first doses | 5,219 second doses | 4.62%
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- **Newfoundland and Labrador:** 12,819 first doses | 7,466 second doses | 2.46%
- **Yukon:** 11,503 first doses | 5,665 second doses | 27.27%
- **Northwest Territories:** 15,217 first doses | 4,558 second doses | 33.76%
- **Nunavut:** 8,066 first doses | 0 second doses | 20.53%



## [Here's what's been happening in Canada](#)

**Second dose delays.** Officials in British Columbia announced Monday that they will delay the second dose of the Pfizer, Moderna and AstraZeneca vaccines for [up to four months](#) after the first dose. Some other provinces are [considering following suit](#), and a national recommendation is said to be imminent. We looked into [what the science says](#), and found some encouraging signs amid very limited data.

**Confusion around AstraZeneca.** Speaking of unclear guidance, various provinces have [adopted different approaches](#) to the newly approved AstraZeneca vaccine amid a federal recommendation that it not be used in those aged 65 and older. The issue here is a lack of data, not a specific safety concern -- but with 500,000 doses [arriving in the country today](#), clarity could make a big difference in determining who gets vaccinated when. Meanwhile, there are hints that another vaccine could be [authorized for use in Canada](#) within weeks.

**Quarantine hotel concerns.** International air travel to Canada [appears to be decreasing](#) in the wake of new restrictions, including the creation of quarantine hotels for recent returnees. The hotels themselves are coming under scrutiny, including [by a House of Commons committee](#), as some returning travellers report [chaotic scenes inside their walls](#) and [unexpectedly high rates](#).

**Stand down on surface transmission.** In the early days of the pandemic, many of us were wiping down our groceries and afraid to touch anything outside our home. There was [never much scientific](#)

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[basis for this](#), and it has increasingly become apparent that [airborne transfer](#) is the main driver of SARS-CoV-2 spread. As more-infectious variants of the virus begin to take over, experts are [doubling down on the belief](#) that scrubbing every surface is ['hygiene theatre'](#) more than it is anything else.

**'When will it end?'** It's been accepted for a while now that the future of SARS-CoV-2 is likely endemic, meaning [it will remain active](#), similar to other coronaviruses that now cause the common cold. Now, though, there is a growing scientific consensus that it will take years for the virus to reach that point -- meaning it could still be a [major cause of illness and death](#) for some time to come.

**Coming out of retirement.** Vaccinating tens of millions of Canadians within the year will require far more of an effort than our pre-pandemic health-care system could have handled. That's where people like Junghee Ahn come in. Ahn, who spent 25 years as a nurse, [came out of retirement this year](#) to help administer vaccinations at Grand River Hospital in Kitchener, Ont.



## [Can we hug our vaccinated grandparents? Experts say it depends](#)

Now that many seniors have received two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, is it safe to hug them?

That's [the question on many Canadians' minds](#), as they balance their desire to get close to their vulnerable relatives with concerns about protecting them from the virus at all costs.

Experts reached by CTVNews.ca say there's no clear answer to this question. Instead, they say, it comes down to how much risk each family and each individual within that family is willing to take on.

Dr. Anna Banerji, a Toronto-based infectious disease expert, said factors to consider before going in for a hug include the vaccinated senior's mental well-being during the pandemic, their physical health, and how much time with them the rest of the family is willing to miss.

"How long can we put our lives on hold and how long can we put our grandparents'-- our parents' --

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lives on hold?" she said. "It becomes, at that point, a discussion of risk and knowing risk, and knowing that the vaccine is not 100 per cent."



## [#ABrightSide in dark times](#)

*Find uplifting moments during the pandemic with the CTVNews.ca #ABrightSide series.*

Here's #ABrightSide for Wednesday:

The pots and pans have gone silent, but new tributes to front-line workers are popping up -- including one that's now [rolling through cities across the country](#).

Andrew Lewis, a graphic artist from London, Ont., was commissioned to create a tribute to the Canada Post workers who continued to go door-to-door as stay-at-home orders took effect in most provinces.

His design has been used to decorate postal vehicles that are now in use in 28 cities.

"It is nice to have this thing zipping around Canada providing some joy and a smile, and from what I have seen, it's working really well," he told CTV News London.

*Share your tips for stories that provide "a bright side" of a dark time by emailing us at [dotcom@ctv.ca](mailto:dotcom@ctv.ca). Please include your full name, city, and a phone number or email where we can reach you.*

## [Latest on the coronavirus in Canada:](#)

- [Vaccine tracker: How many people have received shots?](#)
- [Variant tracker: What are the strains and where are they?](#)
- [Canada's COVID-19 cases start to climb as variants spread, in step with dire forecasts](#)
- [New report shows the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Manitoba's BIPOC communities](#)
- [Ontarians need 'realistic' guidance on seeing friends, relatives, expert says](#)
- [Canadian firm develops biodegradable mask that's ready for production](#)
- [LIVE UPDATES: What's the latest in Canada and around the world today](#)



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# List of locations: Here's where to get tested for COVID-19 in B.C.

Internet Explorer

<https://bcgov03.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/7f71191c6e0c4e65a644c1da3f53eb68>

Mobile and Desktop

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/3862560c5a41418e9d78f4f81688e9d0>

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**Unifor's website is constantly being updated as new information is provided. Unifor has many websites to direct you to for assistance.**

## **Resources:**

Unifor COVID-19 Information and Resources: <https://www.unifor.org/covid19>

Government of Canada Outbreak Update: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

Government of Canada Income Supports for Workers/Individuals:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>

**Please also check the websites of your respective provinces for any additional provincial supports or resources that may be available to you.**

BCCDC website for Health info about COVID-19: [www.bccdc.ca](http://www.bccdc.ca)

British Columbia Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) website: <http://covid-19.bccdc.ca/>

**Health Issues: Dial 811 and follow your Provincial Protocols**

**Mental Health Issues: Dial 211 or access your EAP benefits:**

## **Other useful websites with information**

### **Federal Government Financial Support Resources:**

Government of Canada COVID-19 Financial Assistance for Canadians Outside of Canada: <https://travel.gc.ca/assistance/emergency-info/financial-assistance/covid-19-financial-help>

Government of Canada Economic Plan & How to Apply for Support: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-support-for-canadians-and-businesses.html>

COVID - 19 Employment and Social Development Canada Information Guide: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/notices/coronavirus.html>

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Canada Revenue Agency COVID-19: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/covid-19-employee-info.html>

**Provincial Government Financial Support Resources:**

BC Preparedness Response: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support>

Income Assistance: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/income-assistance>

Income Assistance Offices in the Lower Mainland: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/income-assistance/access-services#lowermainland>

**Health & Preparation Resources:**

COVID-19: Being prepared: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/being-prepared.html>

Government of Canada Symptoms & Treatments: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/symptoms.html>

BC COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment

Tool: <https://covid19.thrive.health/?fbclid=IwAR1NzQXV3eUgFa5bSimQ2wiRpXVVMZc1LPbqp5fUNIDFIK1Sc7yjhcc4aB>

Health Link BC & 811: <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/services-and-resources/about-8-1-1>

**Other Useful Links:**

World Health Organization Myth Busters: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/myth-busters>

World Health Organization Public Advice: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>

Government of Canada, Community-based Measures: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/public-health-measures-mitigate-covid-19.html>

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**If you have any questions, please contact your Local Union Representative.**

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**Nathan Shier [nate@uniforblocals.ca](mailto:nate@uniforblocals.ca)**

**New Westminster Office 604.524.9457 1.800.841.5911**

**Follow phone directory to get to your Local Rep and if not available leave a message you will get a call back.**

**Employment Insurance questions or EFAP: Barbie Zipp Cell # 1.250.881.3515**

**[zipp.barbie@gmail.com](mailto:zipp.barbie@gmail.com)**

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