

March 19, 2021



PLEASE POST

## COVID – 19 UPDATE 28

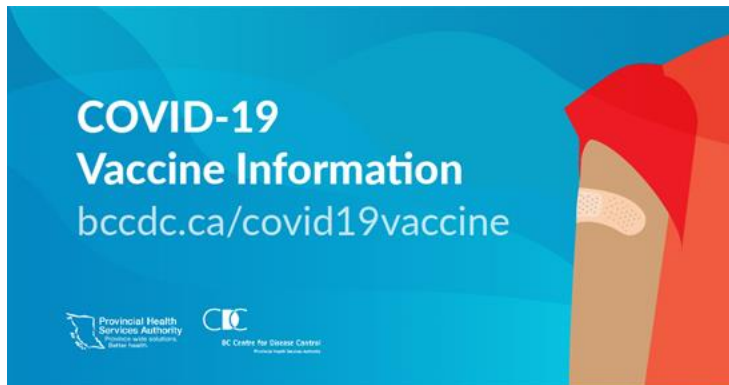
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

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.

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine>

### COVID-19 Vaccine

B.C. is working with federal, provincial, and health authority partners to plan the COVID-19 immunization program.



Article I.



Article II.

Article III.

Article IV. Who, When and Where?

- [COVID-19 vaccination at a glance](#)
- [B.C.'s COVID-19 Immunization Plan](#)

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**Article V.**

**Article VI.**

**Article VII.      Getting a COVID-19 vaccine in B.C.**

- [Approved vaccines for COVID-19](#)
- [Vaccine eligibility](#)
- [Getting a vaccine](#)



**Article VIII.**

**Article IX.**

**Article X.        Answering your questions**

- [FAQ about COVID-19 vaccination](#)



**Article XI.**

**Article XII.**

**Article XIII.     Safety, approval and effectiveness**

- [Monitoring vaccine uptake, safety, and effectiveness](#)
- [Vaccine approval process](#)

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Article XIV.

Article XV. Health professionals and immunization providers

- [Resources for health professionals](#)



Article XVI. Vaccine data

Article XVII. Find information about vaccine supplies and vaccine doses administered on the BC COVID-19 dashboard:

- [Dashboard](#) (mobile and most browsers)
- [Dashboard](#) (Internet Explorer users)
- Learn more about the [COVID-19 vaccine](#) on the BC Government website.

**<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine>**

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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=MzMxNTk4NjMS1&r=MzExNTI5NTE5OTU5S0&i=MTkwMzcxMDQ3OAS2&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 Tuesday, March 16, 2021):

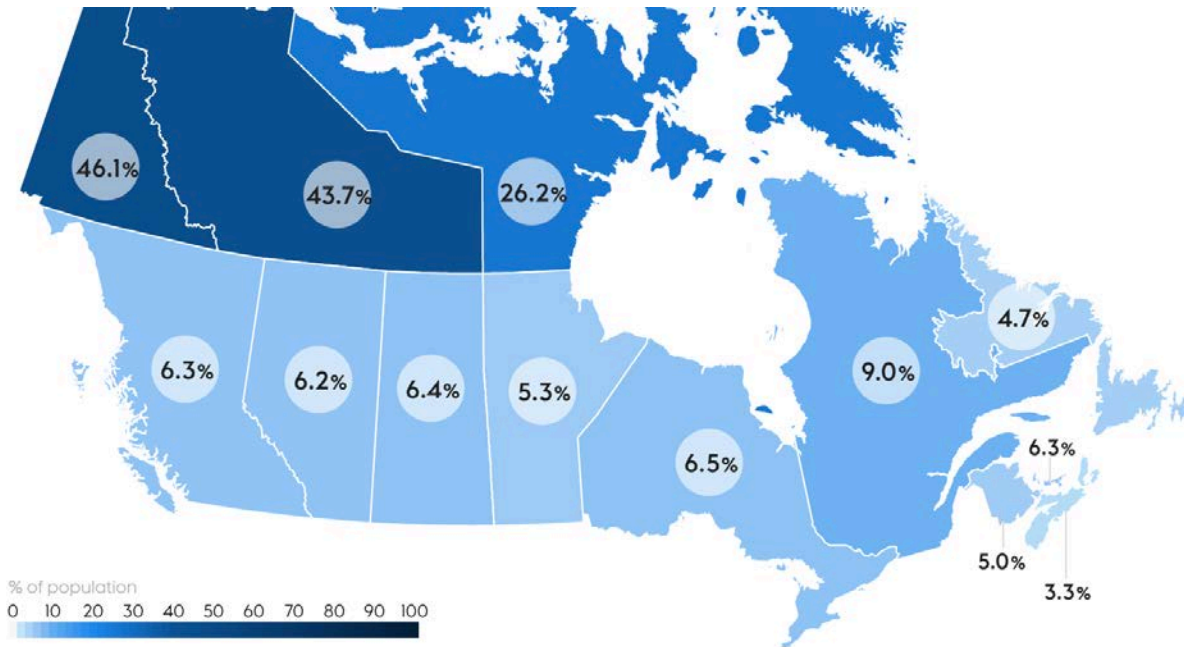
- **Canada:** 914,682 cases | 31,391 active | 22,514 deceased
- **Globally:** 120,930,700 cases | 97,523,852 recovered | 2,675,029 deceased

**Vaccinations by the numbers** (as of 12:00 p.m. EST Tuesday, March 16, 2021)

- **Globally:** 381,341,856 doses administered | 2.9% of population
- **Canada:** 2,630,823 first doses | 602,553 second doses | 6.92%
- **British Columbia:** 322,044 first doses | 87,059 second doses | 6.26%
- **Alberta:** 276,531 first doses | 91,593 second doses | 6.24%
- **Saskatchewan:** 75,387 first doses | 29,037 second doses | 6.4%
- **Manitoba:** 73,009 first doses | 33,922 second doses | 5.29%
- **Ontario:** 954,214 first doses | 288,918 second doses | 6.48%
- **Quebec:** 744,600 first doses | 0 second doses | 9.03%
- **New Brunswick:** 39,159 first doses | 12,195 second doses | 5.01%
- **Nova Scotia:** 31,964 first doses | 16,113 second doses | 3.26%
- **Prince Edward Island:** 10,045 first doses | 5,603 second doses | 6.29%
- **Newfoundland and Labrador:** 24,451 first doses | 9,170 second doses | 4.69%

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- **Yukon:** 19,455 first doses | 10,515 second doses | 46.13%
- **Northwest Territories:** 19,685 first doses | 12,389 second doses | 43.67%
- **Nunavut:** 10,279 first doses | 6,039 second doses | 26.17%



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

**AstraZeneca recommended for those over age 65.** On Tuesday, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) [expanded its recommendation for the use of the AstraZeneca vaccine](#) to include those 65 years of age and over. Since the AstraZeneca vaccine's initial approval last month, the NACI says it looked at three real-world studies that justify approving the vaccine's use for older populations.

**Has Ontario entered the third wave?** As case numbers continue to trend upwards, the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) warned Monday that the province has entered a third wave of COVID-19. [In its declaration](#), the OHA noted that cases involving variants of concern are steeply rising and the number of patients in intensive care is trending upwards in Ontario, noting that "strong adherence to public health measures is urgently needed to prevent overwhelming hospitals." While some say it's still too early to declare, Ontario's top doctor agreed that the province is ["into that base of a third wave"](#) and that modellers are assessing the situation.

**'We failed the most vulnerable'.** Having spent a year at the helm of Canada's fight against COVID-19, Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Theresa Tam says our failure to protect the country's seniors, particularly those in long-term care homes, [has been her biggest lesson](#) during the pandemic. "Even worse is that in that second wave, as we warned of the resurgence, there was a repeat of the huge impact on that population," Tam said in an interview on [CTV's Question Period](#).

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**A new side effect?** Another puzzling COVID-19 outcome has some doctors asking whether the virus is triggering cases of diabetes. Doctors around the world are now sharing similar case reports of [sudden onset diabetes after COVID-19 infection](#), finding that the link is strongest among patients who were hospitalized with the virus. "We've seen this with influenza and other infections," said Dr. Remi Rabasa-Lhoret, with the Montreal Clinical Research Institute. "But the magnitude of what we see with COVID-19 is above what we're used to." [Studies suggest](#) that up to 14 per cent of COVID-19 patients may develop sudden onset diabetes.

**No cross border travel just yet.** If you're anxiously awaiting the reopening of the Canada-U.S. border, you'll have to wait a little longer. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau waved away suggestions Monday that Canada is prepared to explore [reopening its shared border with the United States](#) any time soon. "I think we're all going to wait patiently until such time as the health situation allows us to loosen border restrictions internationally. That'll be eventually, but not for today," he said.

**Eating disorder cases on the rise.** There's been an alarming spike in the number of admissions to eating disorder programs (EDs) across the country, a phenomenon experts fear [may be linked to social isolation](#). One expert notes that there seems to be a correlation between the emphasis that's being placed on appearance when virtually participating in school, work or social gatherings on Zoom.

**Moderna begins vaccine study in kids.** Moderna has begun dosing patients aged six months to less than 12 years in a [mid-to-late stage study of its COVID-19 vaccine](#). The study aims to assess the safety and effectiveness of the vaccine in about 6,750 children in the U.S. and Canada.

**Your questions, answered.** As Canada welcomes the arrival of larger vaccine shipments, doses are beginning to be administered to more people across the country. But lots of questions remain about how this is all going to work. [CTVNews.ca spoke with experts](#) on vaccine efficacy, logistics, and ethics to provide answers about where the mass vaccination effort stands, what's ahead, and when it may be your turn to get the jab.



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## [Canadian officials offer reassurance on AstraZeneca safety as more European countries suspend use](#)

Canadian officials are offering reassurances on the safety of the Oxford-AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine as the list of European countries suspending its use due to safety concerns grew. On Monday, Germany, France, Italy and Spain [suspended the use of the vaccine](#) following reports of blood clots in some recipients.

And although European regulators, the World Health Organization, and AstraZeneca itself have said there's [no evidence to support that the vaccine is to blame](#), some are already declining the vaccine.

Montreal's North health authority reported Monday that [eight per cent of eligible people declined the vaccine](#) over the weekend once they found out they were set to receive the AstraZeneca shot. Among those who opted out of their vaccination is Montreal resident Sheldon Ashley, who said he walked out after being informed what brand of vaccine he would be receiving. "It just scared me a little bit," he said. "I don't have any regrets for refusing it... I don't want to take that vaccine at all."

It's important to note that there have been no reports of post-vaccination blood clots in Canada. [According to Health Canada](#), this country has not received any AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines that were part of the batch under investigation for blood clots, adding that it is monitoring the situation closely.

Out of more than 17 million people who have received the AstraZeneca vaccine, there have been just [37 reports of blood clots](#). In fact, AstraZeneca said the incidence of clots is much lower than would be expected to occur naturally in a general population of this size and is similar to that of other licensed COVID-19 vaccines.



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

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

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Most Canadians have taken up new hobbies while stuck at home. But not all hobbies attract the attention of world-record holders.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic last summer, one of Marcus Brun's friends challenged him to make a paper airplane. His curiosity quickly turned into a passion, sometimes folding planes for up to eight hours a day. "One Starfighter went over the roof (of the school)," [Marcus told CTV News Ottawa](#). By October, seven-year-old Marcus was copying the designs of world-record holder John Collins, also known as [The Paper Airplane Guy](#), sometimes folding for up to eight hours a day.

"The folding was very, very crisp and accurate and quite a few of them looked like I had folded them myself, which is pretty rare, to see someone seven years old who can fold like that," recalls Collins. "It was incredible."

Now, Marcus has one goal. To beat Collin's record for paper airplane distance. "John Collins said I will," he said.

*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?](#)
- [Half of Canadians want first COVID-19 vaccine available: Poll](#)
- [Woman who died after AstraZeneca shot had 'highly unusual' symptoms, officials say](#)
- [B.C. biotech company seeks emergency approval for COVID-19 nasal spray treatment](#)
- [10 common mistakes in fighting 'coronasomnia'](#)
- [Can we hug our vaccinated grandparents? Experts say it depends](#)
- [LIVE UPDATES: What's the latest in Canada and around the world today](#)



## HealthLink BC

<https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-feature/coronavirus-disease-covid-19>

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

Internet Explorer

<https://bc.ctvnews.ca/list-of-locations-here-s-where-to-get-tested-for-covid-19-in-b-c-1.5065190>



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<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>

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-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>

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**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=IwAR1NzQXV3eUgFa5bSimQ2wiRpXVRMZc1LPbqp5fUNIDFIK1Sc7yjhcc4aB>

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

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