

March 30, 2021



PLEASE POST

COVID – 19 UPDATE 29

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 to download updated versions of the fact sheets available to our members and their families.

<https://www.unifor.org/node/18422?v=custom>



Vigilance continues as pandemic lasts

Greetings,

We find ourselves in mid-March at a difficult point of this pandemic that has changed so much of our lives for an entire year.

Some regions have already announced the start of a third wave, with case numbers projected to rise well into the spring.

While we would much prefer to make summer plans and organize the union events where we will be able to meet again in person, we don't believe we are at that stage yet. We all need to remain vigilant in the face of an ongoing pandemic.

This past year, our union has prioritized the health and safety of Unifor members, and we have advocated for all workers in our discussions with governments around pandemic support and recovery for our sectors. We are writing to you today to reiterate that this priority will continue well into 2021, until the risk of contagion is eliminated from our workplaces and communities.

We have asked our national representatives to keep track of new COVID-19 cases in Unifor workplaces. In the coming months, please be sure to connect with your National Representative to report new cases and get their support, or access to the many resources our union has developed over the past year. Together, we must drastically reduce the risk of contagion facing our members in our workplaces, and we need your help to ensure the health and safety of all

March 30, 2021

our members.

As vaccination efforts continue across the country, we know many local unions are helping members address questions or issues as they come up.

We are inviting local unions to consult the [Vaccines tab](#) of Unifor's COVID-19 web page. New materials are available, including:

- [Vaccine workplace Questions & Answers](#)
- [Draft model COVID-19 vaccination language](#)
- Other resources, images and materials will be added

We have organized a webinar open to Unifor members about COVID-19 vaccinations. A panel of experts will deliver a short workshop and answer any questions from the audience. You are invited to register, and to share the [registration link](#) with your members who can register until 3:00 p.m. ET. The webinar will take place **Tuesday March 23, at 7:00 p.m. ET**. A link for the COVID-19 Vaccination webinar will be made available in French soon. Please keep your eye on <https://www.uniforquebec.org/fr/education> for a list of upcoming sessions.

Our union is particularly focused on monitoring the current pandemic will affect our bargaining process with certain employers. We're asking local unions to keep an eye out for two major concerns: 1) any employer that seeks to make vaccination mandatory in any Unifor workplace and 2) any employer that seeks to table concessions during bargaining at this time. If any of these two concerns come up for you, we ask you to notify and involve your national service representative as soon as possible.

We are currently in the process of organizing virtual regional councils for the Québec, Prairie and Atlantic regions, which would typically hold in-person councils in the spring. Local unions in those regions can expect more information very soon.

Decisions will be made about events and councils for the rest of the year in the coming months, and the information will be communicated with local unions as events are confirmed. For a list of upcoming events, please visit the [Unifor Events](#) page on our website.

We urge you to stay safe and keep in touch during these times.

As always, we are here for you and available for any questions or issues that arise for both you and our members.

March 30, 2021

In solidarity,



Jerry Dias
National
President



Lana Payne
National Secretary-Treasurer



Renaud Gagné
Quebec Director

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021PREM0023-000578#>

Three-week circuit breaker begins now to bend the curve, protect people



- To address rising COVID-19 case counts, protect people and communities and help break the chain of COVID-19 transmission, the provincial health officer is amending the provincial public health orders effective midnight tonight, March 30, 2021.
- “COVID-19 continues to create challenges for people and businesses throughout B.C., and we are grateful for the sacrifices people continue to make to keep one another safe,” said Premier John Horgan. “We know that the idea of more restrictions is not welcome news, but we are asking people to rise to the challenge with the confidence that vaccines mean better days are ahead. We are not out of the woods yet,
-

March 30, 2021

- but the provincial health officer's orders, combined with our vaccines, give us the tools we need to move out of this pandemic together.”
- New and amended orders and guidelines are in effect through April 19, 2021, and include:
 - For restaurants, bars and pubs, all food and liquor-serving premises must only provide take-out or delivery service. Dine-in service is prohibited, except for outdoor patios. People dining on patios should do so with their immediate household or core bubble.
 - Indoor, adult group fitness activities of any kind are also paused. Gyms and fitness centres are restricted to individual or one-on-one activities only i.e. one-on-one personal training.
 - The previously announced class variance for limited indoor worship services has been suspended. Outdoor worship services under the current variance may continue.
 - Travel continues to be limited to essential travel, work or medical reasons only. For those who have travelled outside their health region, if you or anyone in your family develops any signs of illness, you must stay home from work, school or daycare, and arrange to get tested immediately.
 - Whistler-Blackcomb ski resort is closed through to April 19, 2021, to address and prevent community spread related to non-essential travel.
 - All workers are strongly encouraged to work from home, where possible.
 - Public health guidance for schools has also been amended to support and encourage students down to Grade 4 to wear masks while at school.
- “Rising case levels, variants of concern, increased transmission and an increase in more severe cases are huge concerns,” said Adrian Dix, Minister of Health. “B.C. public health officials are making the tough choices now to break the chain and protect our communities.”
- Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.'s provincial health officer, said: “Social connection is important, and so is keeping our loved ones and ourselves safe. We all have a choice – to stay safe or put our loved ones, our friends and ourselves at risk, which is why non-essential activities need to be limited and need to be outside with the same small number of people. The sacrifices we make today will help all of us to get through this storm.”
- To learn about amended and existing provincewide restrictions, visit:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restrictions>
- To learn about B.C.'s COVID-19 Immunization Plan, visit: www.gov.bc.ca/bcseniorsfirst
And: www.gov.bc.ca/covidvaccine
- For technical immunization information, visit the BC Centre for Disease Control's website:
www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine
- For more information on what to expect when you go to get vaccinated for COVID-19, visit:
www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine/getting-a-vaccine



Can't see this email properly? [View Online](#)

March 30, 2021

March 30, 2021

THE COVID-19 BRIEF

<http://links.bellmedia-ctv.mkt4301.com/servlet/MailView?ms=MzMyMDI1NDAS1&r=MzExNTI5NTE5OTU5S0&j=MTkwNDM1NjMxNwS2&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](#)

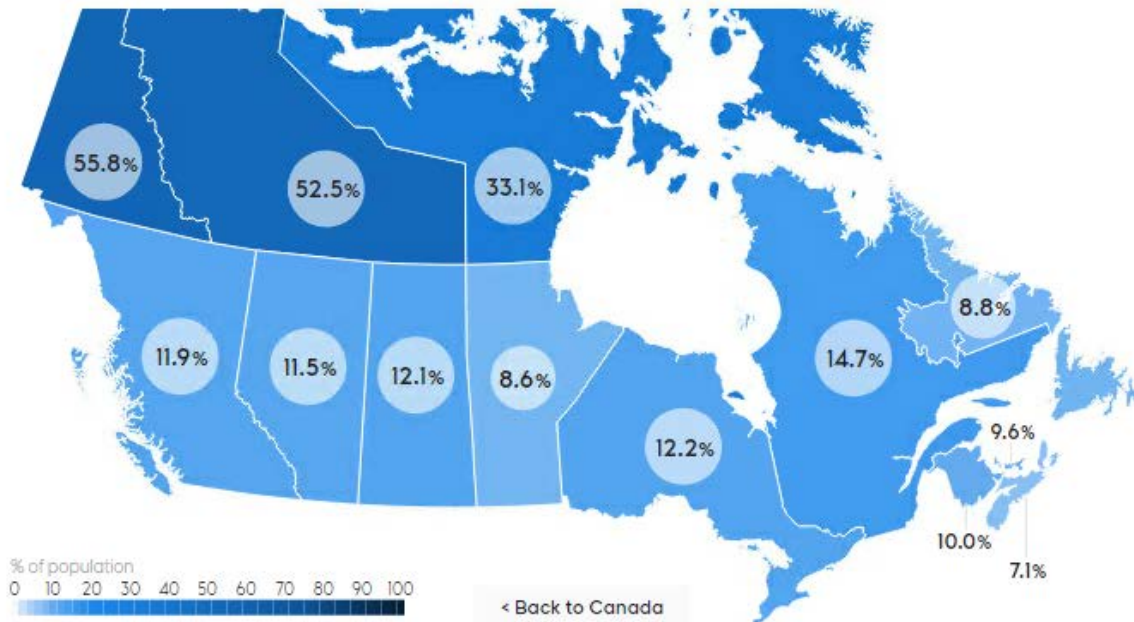
The outbreak by the numbers (as of 11:30 a.m. EST Tuesday, March 30, 2021):

- **Canada:** 974,060 cases | 45,941 active | 22,914 deceased
- **Globally:** 127,814,485 cases | 72,517,137 recovered | 2,794,659 deceased

Vaccinations by the numbers (as of 11:30 a.m. EST Tuesday, March 30, 2021)

- **Globally:** 564,561,593 doses administered | 4.11% of population
- **Canada:** 4,746,248 first doses | 675,979 second doses | 12.5%
- **British Columbia:** 611,803 first doses | 87,289 second doses | 11.9%
- **Alberta:** 510,471 first doses | 97,561 second doses | 11.5%
- **Saskatchewan:** 142,575 first doses | 37,225 second doses | 12.1%
- **Manitoba:** 118,605 first doses | 54,943 second doses | 8.6%
- **Ontario:** 1,788,491 first doses | 313,889 second doses | 12.1%
- **Quebec:** 1,305,840 first doses | 0 second doses | 15.2%
- **New Brunswick:** 77,960 first doses | 12,222 second doses | 10.0%
- **Nova Scotia:** 69,271 first doses | 25,102 second doses | 7.1%
- **Prince Edward Island:** 15,306 first doses | 6,406 second doses | 9.6%
- **Newfoundland and Labrador:** 45,704 first doses | 9,527 second doses | 8.8%
- **Yukon:** 23,457 first doses | 10,924 second doses | 55.8%
- **Northwest Territories:** 23,722 first doses | 13,933 second doses | 52.5%
- **Nunavut:** 13,043 first doses | 6,958 second doses | 33.1%

March 30, 2021



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

Younger and deadlier. Doctors across Canada are warning that they are seeing an [increase in young Canadians](#) being hospitalized with more severe complications from COVID-19, as more transmissible variants [begin to dominate](#). "All of us are kind of shocked how young these patients are," said one emergency doctor. In Ontario, the variants have caused [hospital and intensive care admissions](#) to double, and have driven the [risk of death up by about 60 per cent](#).

A strong resurgence. Compounding these concerns is the grim outlook for what is to come: that COVID-19 cases are set to spike to [levels not yet experienced](#) during this pandemic. In B.C., cases have [already surged higher](#) than "the worst point of the second wave." New long-range projections being presented by Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) officials show that Canada is on track to see a "strong resurgence" of COVID-19 cases across the country if Canadians increase, or even maintain the current number of people they come into contact with each day.

Hope lies ahead. Despite the dire outlook, there is a light at the end of the tunnel, COVID-19 experts say, even if it's hard to see it while more contagious virus variants plunge parts of Canada into the third wave of the pandemic. And while the route to a post-pandemic world may not be as linear as some may like, there's [still reason for optimism](#).

Pandemic misinformation. Tech giants Facebook, Twitter and Google are facing mounting criticism after a U.S. lawmaker pressured the social media platforms to improve the way they [deal with disinformation](#) regarding COVID-19 vaccines.

Dialysis patients and vaccine priorities. They risk being exposed to COVID-19 multiple times a week, are more likely than the general population to be hospitalized with the virus, and have a

March 30, 2021

mortality rate between 20 and 30 per cent. This may sound like a description of those living in long-term care, but it's actually about [dialysis patients](#) with chronic kidney failure — a group that doctors say has fallen through the cracks when it comes to vaccine priority.

Who's next? Speaking of vaccine priorities, if there are no more vaccine production delays, Canada is set to receive enough vaccine doses -- 36.5 million -- in the coming months to give every adult who wants one a first dose before Canada Day (no vaccines are approved for anyone younger than 16). Here is a look at [who is next](#) on the priority list, by province. If you qualify, but haven't gotten your shot yet, officials in Ontario and Quebec are urging residents to [get vaccinated](#) amid a number of unfilled appointments.

Regular COVID-19 shots? Even with Canada's vaccination goals, it will be too early to let our guards down. New research suggests that [just like influenza vaccines](#), which are adjusted each year to combat viruses as they change and mutate, COVID-19 vaccines may need similar alterations until infection rates decrease.

The need for speed. In the last four years, Health Canada has approved 10 vaccines -- five of those are for COVID-19. The five non-COVID vaccines approved, four for influenza and one for shingles, took an average of 397 days from the day the company applied for approval in Canada, until that approval was granted. The average time for COVID-19 vaccines? 82 days. Here is a behind-the-scenes look at [how it is done](#) -- without compromising safety.

Pandemic treaty for the future. More than 20 heads of government and global agencies called in a commentary published Tuesday for [an international treaty](#) for pandemic preparedness that they say will protect future generations in the wake of COVID-19. But there were few details to explain how such an agreement might actually compel countries to act more co-operatively.



[**AstraZeneca, blood clots, more: What you need to know**](#)

Just as 1.5 million doses of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine are [set to arrive](#) from the United States

March 30, 2021

on Tuesday, several [provinces have halted](#) administration of the vaccine to those under the age of 55 following new recommendations from Canada's National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI).

It's the latest setback for the beleaguered vaccine, which has been plagued by questions over its data, efficacy, and side-effects, even as NACI [determined earlier this month](#) that several real-world studies demonstrated that the vaccine is safe and effective "particularly against severe COVID-19 disease and hospitalization" in older adults, including those with comorbidities.

But experts emphasize that the pace of scientific discovery has been extremely fast over the course of the pandemic, with new information and data constantly rolling in, and that the recommendations were made out of [an extreme abundance of caution](#).

The latest concerns are around fears that recipients could get a [rare type of blood clot](#) called vaccine-induced prothrombotic immune thrombocytopenia (VIPIT). It was believed that VIPIT occurred in about one per million administered vaccines, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), but a report from the Paul Ehrlich Institute in Germany cited potential numbers closer to one in 100,000 doses.



[#ABrightSide in dark times](#)

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

The mayor of a small Alberta border town says semi-trailers rolling through the community serve as a constant reminder of the pandemic's effect on community members, whose lives straddle the two countries.

"It's almost like somebody just erased a year," says Jim Willett, the mayor of Coutts.

A place along the Coutts and Sweet Grass, Mont. border with a chain-link fence has become a meeting spot. People bring coffee and chairs, sit along either side and catch up as border guards watch. Willett says he heard about a wedding happening through the fence.

March 30, 2021

Closing the border has also [made people in Coutts a lot closer](#), Willett says, because they've been forced to spend time more time in their home community.

Share your tips for stories that provide "a bright side" of a dark time by emailing us at 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?](#)
- [30 travellers caught with fraudulent COVID-19 test results, CBSA says](#)
- [WHO report: COVID likely 1st jumped into humans from animals](#)
- [Long-term care residents got less medical care in first wave of pandemic: report](#)
- [Gender bias against female surgeons fuelling surgical backlogs](#)
- [Ontario education minister calls on feds to procure COVID-19 vaccines for children](#)
- [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>

Number 124

March 2021

COVID-19 Vaccines

Immunization has saved more lives in Canada in the last 50 years than any other health measure.

What are COVID-19 vaccines?

COVID-19 vaccines protect against infection from the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) that causes COVID-19. The vaccines cause your body to produce antibodies that will help protect you from getting sick if exposed to the virus. The vaccines are approved by Health Canada.

Who should get the vaccines?

Due to limited supplies, the vaccines are initially only being provided to those who are at increased risk of exposure to the virus, and those most at risk of serious complications due to age or certain underlying health conditions. As more vaccine becomes available, others will be able to get the vaccine based on their relative risk of exposure and serious complications. Information on COVID-19 vaccine eligibility can be found on the BCCDC website:

www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine/eligibility

If you had, or may have had, COVID-19 you should still get the vaccine. This is because you may not be immune to the virus that causes COVID-19 and could get infected and sick again.

How are the vaccines given?

The vaccines are given by injection as a series of 2 doses. It is important to get both doses of the vaccine for full protection. Speak with your immunization provider about when you should get your second dose.

March 30, 2021

It is important to keep a record of all immunizations received. Be sure to bring your immunization record with you when returning for your second dose.

What should I do after I get the vaccine?

After you get the vaccine, continue to follow public health recommendations, such as:

- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer
- Physical distance
- Wear a mask where required

You should not receive any other vaccines until 14 days after a dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

What are the benefits of the vaccines?

The vaccines are the best way to protect you against COVID-19, which is a serious and sometimes fatal disease. In clinical trials, those who received a vaccine were 63% to 95% less likely to become sick with COVID-19 and were almost completely protected against severe illness (hospitalization and death). When you get immunized, you help protect others as well, including those who are unable to get the vaccine.

What are the possible reactions after the vaccines?

Vaccines are very safe. It is much safer to get the vaccine than to get COVID-19. The vaccines are not live virus vaccines and cannot give you COVID-19. Common reactions to the vaccines may include soreness, redness, swelling and itchiness where the vaccine was given. For some people, these reactions may show up 8 or more days after getting the vaccine. Other reactions may include tiredness, headache, fever, chills, muscle or joint soreness, swollen lymph nodes under the armpit, nausea and vomiting. These reactions are mild and generally last 1 to 2 days. If you have concerns about any symptoms you develop after receiving the vaccine, speak with your health-care provider or call **8-1-1** for advice.

Serious side effects due to the vaccines were not seen in the clinical trials. The people who received the vaccines in the clinical trials continue to be monitored for any longer-term side effects. A number of processes are in place in Canada to monitor the safety of the vaccines as more people get immunized. For more HealthLinkBC File topics, visit www.HealthLinkBC.ca/healthfiles or your local public health unit. For non-emergency health information and advice in B.C. visit www.HealthLinkBC.ca or call **8-1-1** (toll-free). For the deaf and hard of hearing, call **7-1-1**. Translation services are available in more than 130 languages on request.

For information on Reye Syndrome, see [HealthLinkBC File #84 Reye Syndrome](#).

It is important to stay in the clinic for 15 minutes after getting any vaccine because about 1 in a million people can have a life-threatening allergic reaction called anaphylaxis. This may include hives, difficulty breathing, or swelling of the throat, tongue or lips. Should this reaction occur, your health-care provider is prepared to treat it. Emergency treatment includes administration of epinephrine (adrenaline) and transfer by ambulance to the nearest emergency department. If symptoms develop after you leave the clinic, call **9-1-1** or your local emergency number.

Always report serious or unexpected reactions to your health-care provider.

Who should not get the vaccine?

You should not get the vaccine if you have a serious allergy (anaphylaxis) to:

- Polyethylene glycol (PEG) which is in both the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines. PEG can be found in some cosmetics, skin care products, laxatives, cough syrups, and bowel preparation products for colonoscopy. PEG can be an additive in some processed foods and drinks but no cases of anaphylaxis to PEG in foods and drinks have been reported.
- Polysorbate 80 which is in the AstraZeneca/Verity Pharmaceuticals vaccines. It is also found in medical preparations (e.g., vitamin oils, tablets and anticancer agents) and cosmetics
- A previous dose of a COVID-19 vaccine or to any part of the vaccine

Tell your health-care provider if you have had anaphylaxis but no cause was found after seeing an allergy specialist, or if you had anaphylaxis before and did not get seen by an allergy specialist

March 30, 2021

Are there additional considerations to getting the vaccine?

Speak with your health care provider if you:

- Have an immune system weakened by disease or medical treatment
- Have an autoimmune condition
- Are pregnant, may be pregnant or are planning to become pregnant
- Are breastfeeding
- Have received a monoclonal antibody or convalescent plasma for treatment or prevention of COVID-19
- Have received a vaccine in the last 14 days
- Have symptoms of COVID-19

If you have a new illness preventing you from your regular activities, you should wait until you have recovered. This will help to distinguish side effects of the vaccine from worsening of your illness.

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is an infection of the airways and lungs caused by the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus. Symptoms of COVID-19 can include cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, tiredness and loss of smell or taste. While some people with COVID-19 may have no symptoms or only mild symptoms, others can require hospitalization and may die. Serious illness is more common in those who are older and those with certain chronic health conditions such as diabetes, heart disease or lung disease. For some people, symptoms of COVID-19 can last for weeks or longer. The long-term effects of COVID-19 on a person's health are unknown.

How is COVID-19 spread?

The virus that causes COVID-19 is spread from person to person by coughing, sneezing, talking and singing. It can also be spread by touching an object or surface with the virus on it and then touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

For more information on COVID-19 vaccines, visit BCCDC's COVID-19 vaccine page www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine

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>

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

Mobile and Desktop

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

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>

March 30, 2021

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

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-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=IwAR1NzQXV3eUgFa5bSimQ2wiRpXVRMZc1LPbpg5fUNIDFIK1Sc7yjhcc4aB>

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>

March 30, 2021

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

Cynthia Anderson anderson@uniforblocals.ca ,

Linda Jensen jensen@uniforblocals.ca ,

Mark Misic misic@uniforblocals.ca and

Nathan Shier 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

Gord McGrath President Local 114 mcgrath@uniforblocals.ca

Bill Gaucher Secretary Treasurer Local 114 gaucher@uniforblocals.ca

www.unifor114.com

Main Office Location

First Floor, 326 - 12th Street

New Westminster, BC V3M 4H6

Tel: 604.524.9457

Toll-free: 1.800.841.5911

Fax: 604.524.0419

Fax: 1.877.624.9906

