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## **COVID – 19 UPDATE 30**

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.

***The first issue of this Local 114 COVID- 19 Update was issued back on March 20th, 2020 and this Issue # 30 marks a year that the Local has been putting this publication out and we truly hope that it has been received as a source of information to our members and your families and friends.***

***The Local wants to take this opportunity to thank all our members who have been working during this pandemic, your sacrifices and courage to go to work each and everyday does not go unnoticed, you are all heroes in your own rights especially to those of us who rely on your daily services. To those members who have been adversely affected, laid off, or not called into work for your regular hours our thoughts and prayer are with you and your families and we all look for a restored economy where we are back to normal activities. So again, thank you so much for your service and dedication to go to work throughout this pandemic.***

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



<https://www.unifor.org/en/take-action/campaigns/covid-19-information-resources?v=custom>

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As vaccines begin to roll out across the country, Unifor is also examining the legal and ethical issues surrounding the roll out – including your rights and making sure vaccines go first to those who need them most.

The virus has hit Canadians disproportionately, exposing inequities across our society. We cannot stand by and allow the vaccine rollout to follow this dangerous precedent.

*You can help build support for vaccines by adding a frame to you Facebook profile picture saying "I'm getting vaccinated." Just [click here](#) to update your profile photo.*

On April 6, 2021, Unifor National President Jerry Dias sent letters to every provincial premier in Canada calling for time off for workers to be vaccinated, and for paid time off if they have COVID-19 symptoms, to help stop the spread of the virus. You can read the letters here:

- [British Columbia](#)
- [Alberta](#)
- [Saskatchewan](#)
- [Manitoba](#)
- [Ontario](#)
- [Quebec](#)
- [New Brunswick](#)
- [Nova Scotia](#)
- [Prince Edward Island](#)
- [Newfoundland and Labrador](#)

Unifor will continue to post new materials as they are developed and to act on your behalf to ensure a smooth and equitable rollout. For now, please see these documents:

- [Draft model COVID-19 vaccination language](#)
- [Vaccine workplace Q&A](#)
- [Doctors answer questions about vaccines](#)
- [Letter to the Prime Minister on vaccine distribution](#)

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The federal government and each of the provinces and territories have developed vaccine roll out plans:

- [Federal](#)
- [British Columbia](#)
- [Alberta](#)
- [Saskatchewan](#)
- [Manitoba](#)
- [Ontario](#)
- [Quebec](#)
- [New Brunswick](#)
- [Nova Scotia](#)
- [Prince Edward Island](#)
- [Newfoundland and Labrador](#)
- [Northwest Territories](#)
- [Nunavut](#)
- [Yukon](#)

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<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/plan#phases>



## COVID-19 Immunization Plan

People born 1981 and earlier (40+) can get the AstraZeneca vaccine at eligible pharmacies with vaccine supply in the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, the Interior and Northern B.C. [Find an eligible pharmacy near you.](#)

B.C.'s COVID-19 Immunization Plan is designed to save lives and stop the spread of COVID-19. The information on this page is updated frequently and is subject to change based on vaccine availability and the latest COVID-19 data.

Last updated: **April 19, 2021**

### On this page:

- [Get vaccinated](#)
- [Vaccines in Canada](#)
- [Immunization phases](#)
- [Proof of immunization](#)
- [Community immunity](#)
- [Translated information](#)

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# COVID-19 Immunization Plan



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## Get vaccinated

All COVID-19 [vaccines in Canada](#) are effective and safe. The best vaccine is the one available to you first. [Provincial Health Officer \(PHO\) orders](#) and guidelines remain in place for everyone, even if they have received the vaccine.

Second doses are given about 16 weeks after the first dose. You will get an email, text or phone call to let you know when you are eligible to book an appointment to get a second dose.

## General population

Everyone living B.C. will have the opportunity to get the vaccine for free in 2021. Your vaccine appointment will be scheduled when you are [eligible](#), based on your age.

## Priority neighbourhoods

People born in 1981 or earlier (40+) who live in high-transmission neighbourhoods can register and get contacted to book their vaccine appointment on the same day.

## Pharmacy program

People born in 1981 and earlier (40+) can get the AstraZeneca vaccine at eligible pharmacies in the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, the Interior and Northern B.C.

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## Vaccines in Canada

The COVID-19 vaccine is saving lives. Vaccines do more than protect the people getting vaccinated, they also protect everyone around them. The more people in a community who are immunized and protected from COVID-19, the harder it is for COVID-19 to spread.

The best source of COVID-19 vaccine information is the [British Columbia Centre for Disease Control BCCDC](#).

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## Approved vaccines

The COVID-19 vaccines that have been approved by Health Canada are safe, effective and will save lives. To date, four vaccines have been approved for use by Health Canada.

- Learn about the [Pfizer vaccine](#)
- Learn about the [Moderna vaccine](#)
- Learn about the [AstraZeneca/SII COVISHIELD \(AZ/SII\) vaccine](#)
- Learn about the [Johnson & Johnson vaccine](#)

## Safety

Health Canada has conducted a rigorous scientific review of the available medical evidence to assess the safety of the approved COVID-19 vaccines. Feeling worried or unsure is completely normal when something is new.

- No major safety concerns have been identified in the data Health Canada reviewed
- We can be reassured that Health Canada has a thorough approval process that makes sure the vaccines and medicines we take are safe

## Supply

Vaccine supply is distributed by the Government of Canada and B.C. receives an allocated number of doses of vaccine on a weekly basis. The allocated amount is expected to increase throughout 2021.

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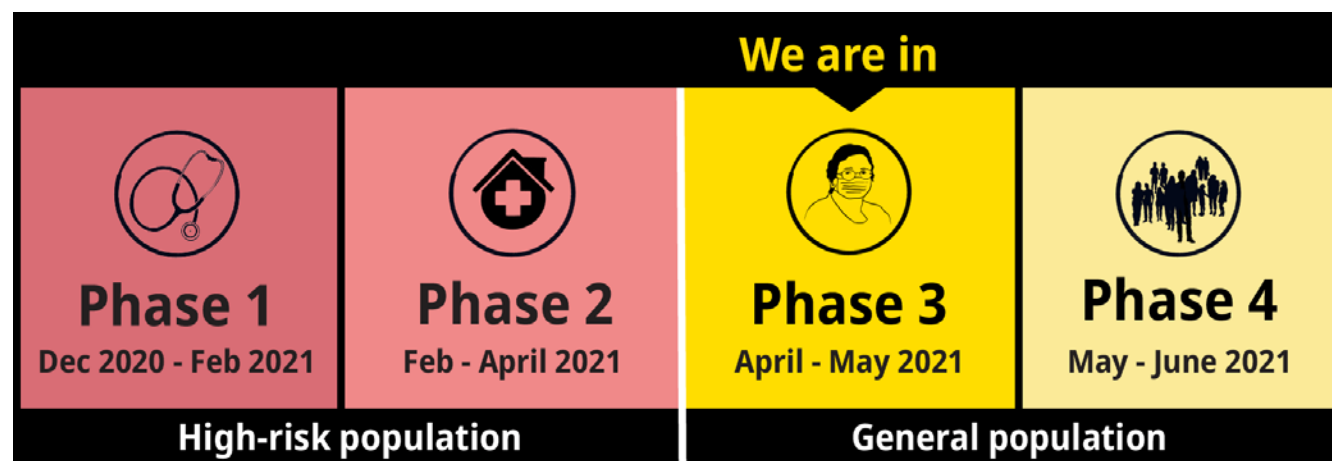
## Immunization phases

**Eligibility is based on the age you are turning in 2021.** Once you become eligible, you are always eligible. For example:

- If you are in Phase 2, you can get the vaccine in Phase 3 or Phase 4
- If you are in Phase 3, you can get the vaccine in Phase 4

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The phased approach is based on expert advice and guidance from the [National Advisory Committee on Immunization \(NACI\)](#), B.C.'s Immunization Committee and the public health leadership committee. NACI recommends certain populations receive prioritization for early COVID-19 vaccination.



B.C. is committed to an ethical approach to immunization phases. The COVID-19 vaccine will be distributed equitably and ethically to people in B.C. following [national ethical frameworks](#) and [BCCDC's COVID-19 Ethical Decision-Making Framework](#).

The timeline for each phase may change due to vaccine availability. The federal government is working to obtain as much vaccine as possible to distribute to provinces and territories.

- View vaccination progress on the [BCCDC COVID-19 dashboard](#)

### Community-specific approach

Some small and remote communities are getting vaccinated using a community-specific approach that may be different from the provincial schedule. Find out if your community is included and the specific vaccination schedule, based on your health authority:

- [Interior Health](#)
- [Island Health](#)
- [Northern Health](#)

To manage increasing COVID-19 transmission, some areas and communities are being vaccinated on a different timeline, including:

- [Whistler](#)

### Distribution for front-line priority workers

Distribution of the AstraZeneca/SII COVISHIELD (AZ/SII) vaccine for front-line priority workers is paused.

Program distribution status will be updated as information is available.



## Phase 1 and Phase 2: High-risk population immunization

The focus of Phase 1 and Phase 2 is protecting those most vulnerable to severe illness first.



### Phase 1

#### Phase 1 – Complete

**Timeline:** December 2020 to February 2021

- Residents and staff of long-term care facilities
- Individuals assessed for and awaiting long-term care
- Residents and staff of assisted living residences
- Essential visitors to long-term care facilities and assisted living residences
- Hospital health care workers who may provide care for COVID-19 patients in settings like Intensive Care Units, emergency departments, paramedics, medical units and surgical units
- Remote and isolated Indigenous communities



### Phase 2

#### Phase 2 – Complete

**Timeline:** February to April 2021

#### Public health immunization clinics

- Seniors born in 1941 or earlier not immunized in Phase 1
- Indigenous (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) peoples born in 1956 or earlier, Elders and additional Indigenous communities not immunized in Phase 1

#### Priority groups

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- Hospital staff, community general practitioners (GPs) and medical specialists not immunized in Phase 1
- Vulnerable populations living and working in select congregated settings
- Staff in community home support and nursing services

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### **Phase 3 and Phase 4: General population immunization**

Vaccines in Phase 3 and Phase 4 will primarily be distributed in five year age increments. Monthly breakdowns for dose one are estimates and may change based on vaccine availability.



## **Phase 3**

### **Phase 3 – Current phase**

**Timeline:** April to May 2021

- People aged 79 to 60, in five year increments:
  - 79 to 75 (Dose 1 April)
  - 74 to 70 (Dose 1 April)
  - 69 to 65 (Dose 1 April)
  - 64 to 60 (Dose 1 April/May)
- Indigenous (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) peoples aged 64 to 18 (Dose 1 April)
- People aged 74 to 16 who are [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) (Dose 1 March/April)



## **Phase 4**

### **Phase 4**

**Timeline:** May to June 2021



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- People aged 59 to 18, in five year increments:
  - 59 to 55 (Dose 1 May)
  - 54 to 50 (Dose 1 May)
  - 49 to 45 (Dose 1 May)
  - 44 to 40 (Dose 1 May/June)
  - 39 to 35 (Dose 1 May/June)
  - 34 to 30 (Dose 1 June)
  - 29 to 25 (Dose 1 June)
  - 24 to 18 (Dose 1 June)

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## Proof of immunization

When you [get vaccinated](#), you will have the option to receive a paper and digital copy of your immunization record card. We recommend registering for [Health Gateway](#), where your digital immunization record card will be available only after you receive the vaccine.

**Note:** Health Gateway is not a source of vaccine or immunization information.

Your immunization record will also be stored in the online provincial database, accessible to you, public health and your doctor.

Example of a paper immunization record card:

COVID-19 Immunization Record Card	
This is a permanent record. Keep in a safe place. For more information about COVID-19 immunization, talk to your health care provider or visit <a href="http://www.bccdc.ca/covid19vaccine">www.bccdc.ca/covid19vaccine</a>	
Name: _____ Date of birth: _____	
<b>DOSE 1</b>	<b>DOSE 2</b>
Date given: _____	_____
Product name: _____	_____
Lot #: _____	_____
Provider or clinic: _____	_____

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## Community immunity

Vaccines do more than protect you from COVID-19, they also protect everyone around you. The more people in a community who are immunized against COVID-19, the harder it is for the virus to spread.

Community (herd) immunity could be reached when a large majority of people in B.C. are immunized against COVID-19. When you choose to be vaccinated against COVID-19, you are helping save lives by protecting your household and your entire community from the virus.

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## Lifting restrictions

Lifting [current restrictions](#) will be based on many factors, including:

- Number of people immunized and level of community immunity
- Number of COVID-19 cases in the province
- Health care system capacity

## Layers of protection

Going back to normal life will take time. Even if you have received the vaccine, you must follow provincial health orders and protect others by:

- Washing your hands
- Staying home when sick and getting tested
- Keeping a safe distance from others
- Wearing a mask in public indoor spaces

Together, we can keep each other safe.

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## Translated information

- [新冠病毒疫苗接種計劃](#) (Traditional Chinese)
- [新冠病毒疫苗接种计划](#) (Simplified Chinese)
- [बेहिङ-19 टीकाकरण योजना](#)
- [Plan de vaccination contre la COVID-19](#)
- [Plan de inmunización contra el COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 예방접종 계획](#)
- [Plano ng Pagbabakuna sa COVID-19](#)
- [برنامه ایمن سازی COVID-19](#)
- [خطة التطعيم ضد كوفيد-19](#)
- [कोविड-19 टीकाकरण योजना](#)
- [Kế hoạch Chung ngừa COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19 予防接種計画](#)

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/plan#phases>

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<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021HLTH0026-000745>

**Joint statement on B.C.'s COVID-19 response, latest updates**

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Tuesday, April 20, 2021 4:05 PM

Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.'s provincial health officer, and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, have issued the following joint statement regarding updates on the COVID-19 response in British Columbia:

“Today, we are reporting 849 new cases, for a total of 120,889 cases in British Columbia.

“There are 9,145 active cases of COVID-19 in the province, with 13,679 people under public health monitoring as a result of identified exposure to known cases. A further 109,973 people who tested positive have recovered.

“Of the active cases, 456 individuals are currently hospitalized with COVID-19, 148 of whom are in intensive care. The remaining people are recovering at home in self-isolation.

“Since we last reported, we have had 247 new cases of COVID-19 in the Vancouver Coastal Health region, 474 new cases in the Fraser Health region, 29 in the Island Health region, 67 in the Interior Health region, 31 in the Northern Health region and one new case of a person who resides outside of Canada.

“There are currently 6,179 cases of COVID-19 that are confirmed variants of concern in our province. Of the total cases, 163 are active and the remaining people have recovered. This includes 4,041 cases of the B.1.1.7 (U.K.) variant, 76 cases of the B.1.351 (South Africa) variant and 2,062 cases of the P.1 (Brazil) variant.

“There has been one new COVID-19 related death, for a total of 1,539 deaths in British Columbia. Our condolences are with the family, friends, caregivers and communities of all the people who have passed away due to COVID-19.

“There are two new outbreaks at Dawson Creek and District Hospital and Surrey Memorial Hospital. The outbreak at the Long Lake Chateau is now over.

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“In B.C., 1,414,644 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca-SII COVID-19 vaccines have been administered, 88,263 of which are second doses.

“People 35 years and older are now eligible to register for a vaccine in our age-based program on the Get Vaccinated website. In addition to our age-based and worker programs, people aged 40 and up are also now eligible to receive the AstraZeneca vaccine at their local pharmacy or through special clinics in 13 high-risk communities.

“At the current rates of transmission, our health-care workers and hospitals are getting pushed to the limits to support the many people with COVID-19 who require care.

“We are taking steps to reduce this pressure and we need everyone in B.C. to do the same. Later this week, new orders will be in place to restrict vacation and recreational travel outside of your home health authority.

“We also need everyone else to do their part – staying local, in our communities and health regions, and waiting until it is safe to travel once again.

“We will get through this pandemic. As we have done before, we will do this by working together. Let’s do all we can now so we can enjoy a different summer.”

#### **Learn More:**

For the April 19, 2021, PowerPoint presentation, visit:

[https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/19.04.21\\_ProtectingPeopleDeck\\_COVID-19.pdf](https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/19.04.21_ProtectingPeopleDeck_COVID-19.pdf)

For the April 15, 2021, modelling presentation, visit: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/modelling-projections>

To share your perspectives and feedback on the SPEAK survey, go to: [www.bccdc.ca/covid19survey](http://www.bccdc.ca/covid19survey)

#### **Provincial health officer's orders and guidance:**

Orders: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

Guidance on restrictions: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/restrictions>

#### **The latest vaccine information:**

For vaccine information, visit the BCCDC dashboard: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data> Or: [www.bccdc.ca](http://www.bccdc.ca)

**The latest updates, guidance and information on COVID-19, and where to get tested:**

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The latest medical updates, including case counts, prevention, risks and to find a testing centre near you:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/>

Or follow @CDCofBC on Twitter.

For data regarding ongoing outbreaks in long-term care, assisted-living and independent-living facilities in B.C., visit: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data#outbreak>

### **Mental health support:**

Mental health and anxiety support: [www.bouncebackbc.ca](http://www.bouncebackbc.ca)

Or: [www.anxietycanada.com](http://www.anxietycanada.com)

Or: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/mental-well-being-during-covid-19>

Or: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/managing-your-health/mental-health-substance-use/virtual-supports-covid-19>

### **Non-health related information:**

Financial, child care and education support, travel, transportation and essential service information:

[www.gov.bc.ca/covid19](http://www.gov.bc.ca/covid19)

Or call 1 888 COVID19 (1 888 268-4319) between 7:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. (Pacific time), seven days a week.

### **COVID-19 exposure events, updates and information by health authority:**

BCCDC (flights, work sites, etc): <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/public-exposures>

Fraser Health: [fraserhealth.ca/covid19exposure](http://fraserhealth.ca/covid19exposure)

Interior Health: <https://news.interiorhealth.ca/news/public-exposures/>

Island Health: <https://www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/covid-19/outbreaks-and-exposures>

Northern Health: <https://www.northernhealth.ca/health-topics/outbreaks-and-exposures>

Vancouver Coastal Health: <http://www.vch.ca/covid-19/public-exposures>

For the latest videos and livestreaming of COVID-19 media availabilities, visit:

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/BCProvincialGovernment/](http://www.facebook.com/BCProvincialGovernment/)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/BCGovNews>

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/ProvinceofBC](http://www.youtube.com/ProvinceofBC)



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# THE COVID-19 BRIEF

## 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 4:00 p.m. EDT Tuesday, April 20, 2021):

- **Canada:** 1,136,599 cases | 87,778 active | 23,707 deceased
- **Globally:** 142,391,951 cases | 81,570,374 recovered | 3,305,163 deceased

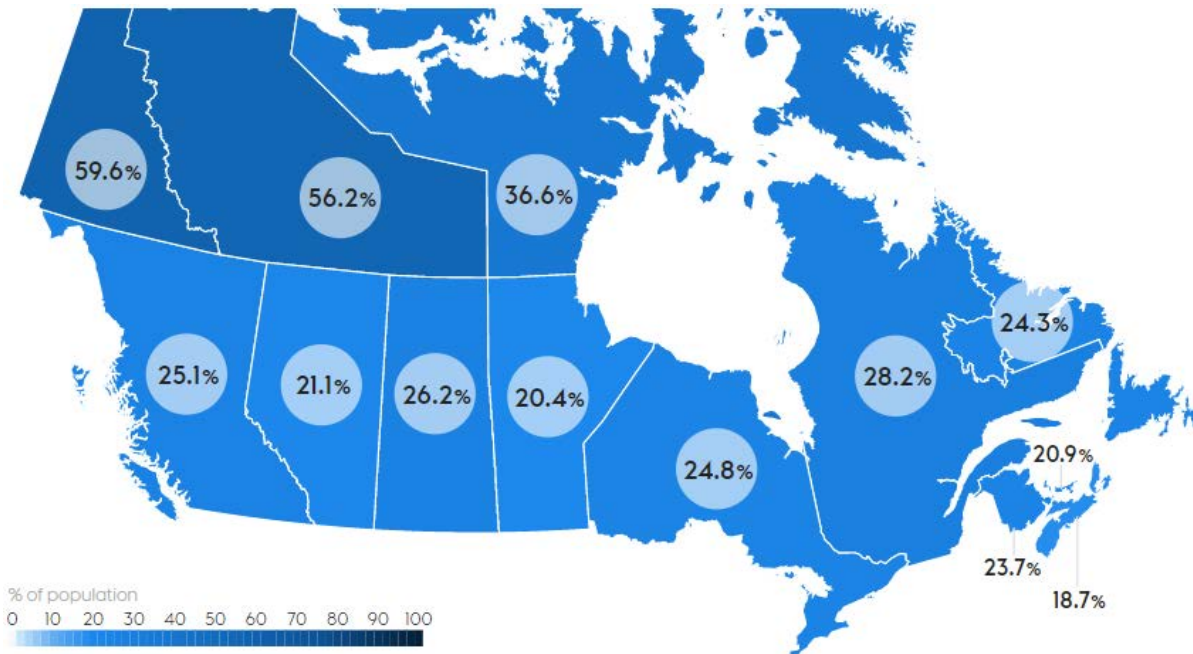
**Vaccinations by the numbers** (as of 4:00 p.m. EDT Tuesday, April 20, 2021)

- **Globally:** 919,600,587 doses administered | 6.51% of population
- **Canada:** 9,469,550 first doses | 938,248 second doses | 24.92%
- **British Columbia:** 1,292,190 first doses | 87,970 second doses | 25.1%
- **Alberta:** 931,883 first doses | 233,340 second doses | 21.1%
- **Saskatchewan:** 309,276 first doses | 42,893 second doses | 26.2%
- **Manitoba:** 280,980 first doses | 69,997 second doses | 20.4%
- **Ontario:** 3,647,590 first doses | 347,597 second doses | 24.8%
- **Quebec:** 2,413,995 first doses | 34,414 second doses | 28.2%
- **New Brunswick:** 185,548 first doses | 19,028 second doses | 23.7%
- **Nova Scotia:** 183,141 first doses | 32,877 second doses | 18.7%
- **Prince Edward Island:** 33,439 first doses | 9,579 second doses | 20.9%
- **Newfoundland and Labrador:** 126,675 first doses | 9,674 second doses | 24.3%
- **Yukon:** 25,065 first doses | 20,326 second doses | 59.6%
- 
- **Northwest Territories:** 25,375 first doses | 19,271 second doses | 56.2%
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- **Nunavut:** 14,393 first doses | 11,282 second doses | 36.6%



## Here's what's been happening in Canada

**Canada's border restrictions.** Public Safety Minister Bill Blair has announced the country's international and U.S. [border restrictions will remain in place](#) for at least another month. The minister said Canadian and U.S. officials agreed the border should remain closed to non-essential travel until May 21. Additionally, existing restrictions on non-U.S. travel into Canada will also be extended for another month. On Tuesday, the U.S. State Department also [updated its travel guidance](#) for Canada to "Level 4: Do Not Travel." The department issued similar guidance for [approximately 80 per cent](#) of the world's countries due to pandemic risks.

**Toddler dies from COVID-19.** After British Columbia recorded eight more deaths related to COVID-19 over the weekend, the province came out with more tragic news on Monday. Provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry announced that [one of those deaths](#) was a person under the age of two - the youngest person to die from the disease in B.C. While Henry said the child had pre-existing health conditions that complicated their illness, she added that "it was the virus that caused their death." B.C. has recorded 1,538 deaths since the start of the pandemic.

**Saline injections.** Six people in Vaughan, Ont., which is located just north of Toronto, were [injected with saline](#) instead of a COVID-19 vaccine on March 28, according to health officials. Mackenzie Health said the six individuals were injected with saline, which is used to dilute the COVID-19 vaccine before use. The regional health-care provider said the saline injection "does not cause any harm, however this should not have happened." Mackenzie Health said the impacted individuals



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have been notified and they're undertaking a full review of their processes to ensure it doesn't happen again.

**Vaccine delivery delays.** After Canada's vaccine delivery schedule faced another setback last week when it was revealed a shipment of about 1.2 million doses of Moderna would be delayed and scaled back, the federal government said they are [expecting 1 million doses](#) of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to arrive this week. The Moderna delay means the number of vaccine doses Canada can expect this month will be cut in half and their distribution delayed by at least a week. As for the Oxford-AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson vaccines, Ottawa is not expecting any deliveries of those shots this week. Despite the hiccup, the government said they remain confident that all adults who want a vaccine will be fully vaccinated by the end of September.

**Don't ask people about their vaccine eligibility.** As more Canadians get vaccinated against COVID-19, public health and sociological experts are urging people to [refrain from asking their co-workers and loved ones](#) how they were able to get the shot. While it's natural for people to be curious, experts say they should remember that some people have underlying medical conditions they prefer to keep private. Maria Sundaram, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Toronto's

Dalla Lana School of Public Health, says there are a lot of different reasons why someone might be eligible to receive the vaccine early and they "don't have to disclose [them] to people."

**Filing your taxes late.** The Canada Revenue Agency is warning Canadians [to file their 2020 taxes](#) before the April 30 deadline or they could face delays of up to two months for various COVID-19 relief benefits. [The CRA said](#) it needs 2020 tax information to determine eligibility for the Canada Recovery Benefit, the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit, and the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit. All three programs require applicants to have earned at least \$5,000 in 2019, 2020, or in the 12 months before the date of their application. The government agency stressed that filing on time will avoid "having your recovery benefit payments paused while we validate your eligibility."

**Trudeau, Freeland seek AstraZeneca shots.** Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland both said on Tuesday they would try to book vaccine appointments at a pharmacy as soon as possible after [they suddenly became eligible](#) to receive the Oxford-AstraZeneca shot. Trudeau, 49, and Freeland, 52, can receive the vaccine now after Ontario suddenly lowered the age minimum to 40 years and older. While there are concerns about blood clotting with the AstraZeneca vaccine for younger recipients, several provinces have lowered the age eligibility for the shot given the extremely low risk and efficacy of the vaccine.

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## **Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine eligibility expands**

It's not just Trudeau and Freeland who will be eligible for the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine now.

[Anyone over the age of 40](#) in British Columbia, Manitoba, Alberta, and Ontario can now receive the shot.

B.C. and Manitoba dropped the age requirement for the vaccine on Monday and Ontario and Alberta followed suit the next day. The Quebec government has also stated that they plan to lower the age eligibility for the Oxford-AstraZeneca shot, but it's not yet clear what age that will be or when exactly it will come into effect.

All of the provinces had previously limited the vaccine to those above the age of 55 due to concerns about blood clots in younger individuals. However, provinces have lowered the age eligibility because of the extremely low risk of blood clotting and the vaccine's effectiveness against the virus.

What's more, [some pharmacies have reported](#) in recent days that vaccination appointments for those 55 years old and above were going unfilled and doses were going to waste.

On Tuesday, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) was [expected to update its guidance](#) on the usage of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, but they postponed the announcement "in order to further validate its data analysis." Although Health Canada has approved the vaccine for any 18 years or older, NACI recommended it should only be given to those over the age of 55 back in late March amid blood clotting concerns.

NACI expects to issue its finalized guidance on the vaccine "later this week," a spokesperson told CTVNews.ca in a statement on Tuesday. Regardless, it's still up to each individual province and territory to decide how they want to rollout the vaccines.

To date, there have only been three reported cases of vaccine-induced blood clotting in Canada from the Oxford-AstraZeneca shot and no deaths.

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## **#ABrightSide in dark times**

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

While the COVID-19 pandemic has certainly taken its toll on front-line workers, [one Winnipeg man](#) has found a way to make people laugh in spite of it all.

Tope Babalola has earned more than a million followers on TikTok during the pandemic thanks to his hilarious and relatable skits, in which he imitates both service workers and the frustrating customers they encounter while on the job.

"For every 10 good customers, there was always at least one frustrating one," Babalola, who got his first job at a grocery store at the age of 16, told CTV News Winnipeg. Read the [full story here](#).

### **Latest on the coronavirus in Canada:**

- [Vaccine tracker: How many people have received shots?](#)
- [Variant tracker: What are the strains and where are they?](#)
- [This much virtual health care wasn't intentional, but experts say it may be here to stay](#)
- [N.B. reports first case of blood-clotting from AstraZeneca vaccine; no new cases of COVID-19](#)
- [Staff up now, or stay lean and wait? Hospitality sector faces dilemma amid third wave](#)
- [COVID-19 deaths are accelerating, WHO warns, as world records most cases ever in a single week](#)
- [One of Ontario's top scientific advisers says he considered quitting after latest COVID-19 restrictions](#)
- [Your health and the federal budget: Long-term care standards, vaccine production, more](#)
- ['You will not be able to do it': Former solicitor general doubts B.C. can enforce travel restriction](#)
- [LIVE UPDATES: What's the latest in Canada and around the world today](#)

**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>

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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/departement-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/departement-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:**

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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=IwAR1NzQXV3eUgFa5bSimQ2wiRpXVRMZc1LPbpgp5fUNIDFIK1Sc7yjhcc4aB>

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.**

**Cynthia Anderson** [anderson@uniforbclocals.ca](mailto:anderson@uniforbclocals.ca) ,

**Linda Jensen** [jensen@uniforbclocals.ca](mailto:jensen@uniforbclocals.ca) ,

**Mark Misic** [misic@uniforbclocals.ca](mailto:misic@uniforbclocals.ca) and

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

**Gord McGrath President Local 114** [mcgrath@uniforbclocals.ca](mailto:mcgrath@uniforbclocals.ca)

**Bill Gaucher Secretary Treasurer Local 114** [gaucher@uniforbclocals.ca](mailto:gaucher@uniforbclocals.ca)

**[www.unifor114.com](http://www.unifor114.com)**

**Main Office Location**

First Floor, 326 - 12<sup>th</sup> 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

