

April 27, 2021



PLEASE POST

## COVID – 19 UPDATE 31

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 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 every day 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.*

**We would like to start featuring in our next issues a Local 114 member(s) who have been working throughout this COVID-19 Pandemic. If you would like to be featured please send a photo of yourself (along with your name(s)) and a brief explanation of where you work and what you do. Send to [gaucher@uniforbclocals.ca](mailto:gaucher@uniforbclocals.ca) Mark in the subject line: Local 114 Member working during COVID-19.**

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<https://www.unifor.org/en/whats-new/press-room/unifor-calls-pandemic-protection-workers-national-day-mourning>

### **Unifor calls for pandemic protection for workers on National Day of Mourning**



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April 27, 2021 - 12:00 AM

April 27, 2020

**TORONTO**– As Unifor prepares to mark the National Day of Mourning on April 28, the union is calling for immediate government action to provide pandemic protection for workers.

“The pandemic has starkly revealed inequities in our workplaces, with many workers continuing to offer essential services, despite the risks to their health and to that of their families,” said Unifor National President Jerry Dias. “No one should have to die to make a living, but provincial governments continue to reject pandemic measures needed to protect workers.”

Sadly, 19 Unifor members lost their lives since the last Day of Mourning, either on the job or to COVID-19. The seven Unifor members who died from COVID-19 worked in a variety of sectors, including long-term care, warehouse and manufacturing. In their memory, Unifor is continuing to advocate for priority vaccine access for all workers who must leave the house, permanent paid sick days, paid vaccination time and increased rapid testing.

April 28 marks the National Day of Mourning, to pay tribute to workers who died due to workplace injury and occupational disease and recommit to improve health and safety in the workplace. This year’s event takes on special significance during the heightened safety concerns of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Related links:

- [Brian Pallister stands alone as last paid vaccination leave holdout in the west](#)
- [Ford fumbles again as COVID-19 rages across Ontario workplaces](#)
- [Paid sick days must be universal, sufficient and permanent](#)
- [Unifor demands pandemic pay and vaccine access for grocery workers](#)
- [New third-wave restrictions highlight urgent need to vaccinate all essential workers now](#)
- [New poll shows vast majority of Ontarians in favour of legislated paid sick days](#)
- [Essential workers speak out on need for vaccination access and paid sick days](#)

Unifor is Canada's largest union in the private sector and represents 315,000 workers in every major area of the economy. The union advocates for all working people and their rights, fights for equality and social justice in Canada and abroad, and strives to create progressive change for a better future.

For media inquiries or to arrange a Skype, Zoom or Facetime interview please contact Unifor Communications Representative Kathleen O’Keefe at [kathleen.okeefe@unifor.org](mailto:kathleen.okeefe@unifor.org) or 416-896-3303 (cell).

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Still have questions about COVID-19? We are here to help. Feel free to email us at: [covid@unifor.org](mailto:covid@unifor.org). We will get back to you as soon as possible, and stay safe.

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[https://www.unifor.org/en/take-action/campaigns/covid-19-information-resources?v=take\\_action](https://www.unifor.org/en/take-action/campaigns/covid-19-information-resources?v=take_action)

Unifor has developed a number of documents and online tools to help address your needs during the COVID-19 pandemic, including how to apply for income supports, how to return to work safely, dealing with associated stresses and mental health issues, staying safe in your own home, and more.

For information specifically on income supports during the pandemic, including Employment Insurance and special pandemic income programs, please see the Income Supports tab of this website.

*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. Check out the Vaccines tab on this page for more information.*

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Be sure, as well, to check out the other tabs on this website for more information on resources for Locals, Health and Safety, Regional and sector-specific information.

As we address the on-the-ground needs of our members, Unifor is also campaigning to ensure governments and industry are doing their part to ensure a speedy and equitable recovery, including:

- [Build Back Better](#)
- [Fair Pay for Health Care workers](#)
- [Fair Pay Forever for Retail workers](#)
- [Reopening Air Travel](#)
- [Hospitality and Gaming](#)
- [Fix Employment Insurance](#)
- [Race-based COVID data](#)
- [Letter to the Prime Minister – Don't reward the use of scabs](#)

Keep checking back regularly. The documents throughout this page are updated regularly as programs change and new ones are announced.

### **Education Department webinars**

Sign up for Unifor's Education Department webinar sessions here <http://onlineeducation.unifor.org/>

### **Special Recovery Benefits**

The federal government has set up several special programs

#### **Canada Recovery Caregiver Benefit**

The Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit (CRCB) gives income support (\$500 each week, for a period up to 26 weeks) to employed and self-employed individuals who are unable to work because they must care for their child under 12 years old or a family member who needs supervised care. [Click here for more information.](#)

#### **Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit**

The Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB) gives income support (\$500 each week, for up to 2 weeks) to employed and self-employed individuals who are unable to work because they're sick or need to self-isolate due to COVID-19, or have an underlying health condition that puts them at greater risk of getting COVID-19. [Click here for more information.](#)

#### **Canada Recovery Benefit**

The Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB) gives income support (\$1000 every 2 weeks, for up to 26 weeks – or 13 eligible periods) to employed and self-employed individuals who are directly affected by COVID-19 and are not entitled to Employment Insurance (EI) benefits. [Click here for more information.](#)

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## Women

[Domestic violence and the workplace during the pandemic](#)

[Safe at home. Safe at work. End domestic violence. Shareable.](#)

Public Health Canada is your most reliable source for medical information about COVID-19 prevention measures, symptoms, and preparedness plans. You will find a complete list of resources including updates on the government's responses [on their website](#).



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

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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 Friday, April 23, 2021):

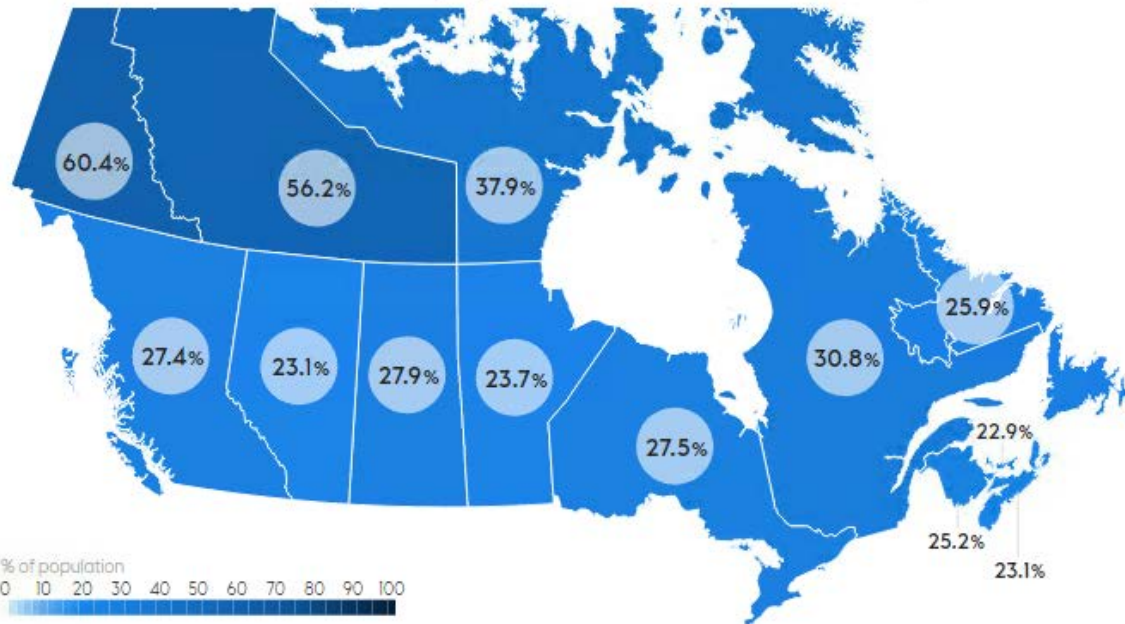
- **Canada:** 1,161,889 cases | 85,761 active | 23,874 deceased
- **Globally:** 145,088,173 cases | 83,412,638 recovered | 3,077,628 deceased

**Vaccinations by the numbers** (as of 4:00 p.m. EDT Friday, April 23, 2021)

- **Globally:** 973,378,158 doses administered | 6.85% of population
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- **Canada:** 10,435,836 first doses | 980,044 second doses | 27.5%
- **British Columbia:** 1,411,955 first doses | 88,475 second doses | 27.4%
- **Alberta:** 1,022,865 first doses | 252,422 second doses | 23.1%
- **Saskatchewan:** 329,192 first doses | 43,142 second doses | 27.9%
- **Manitoba:** 327,143 first doses | 71,159 second doses | 23.7%
- **Ontario:** 4,045,466 first doses | 355,208 second doses | 27.5%
- **Quebec:** 2,638,608 first doses | 41,299 second doses | 30.8%
- **New Brunswick:** 196,931 first doses | 22,008 second doses | 25.2%
- **Nova Scotia:** 226,295 first doses | 34,493 second doses | 23.1%
- **Prince Edward Island:** 36,510 first doses | 9,768 second doses | 22.9%
- **Newfoundland and Labrador:** 135,173 first doses | 9,674 second doses | 25.9%
- **Yukon:** 25,408 first doses | 21,185 second doses | 60.4%
- **Northwest Territories:** 25,375 first doses | 19,271 second doses | 56.2%
- **Nunavut:** 14,915 first doses | 11,940 second doses | 37.9%



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

**India flight ban.** As India's case load hits catastrophic highs of over 300,000 per day, the Canadian government is imposing a [30-day ban](#) on all commercial and private flights coming from India and Pakistan effective Thursday at 11:30 p.m. EST. The temporary ban comes as more passengers arrive in Canada with positive test results from those two countries. But because COVID-19 variants no longer unique to specific countries and are spreading quickly across the globe, [targeted restrictions](#) can only go so far, [Dr. Theresa Tam warns](#).

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**Variants dominate.** These additional travel restrictions come as new [federal modelling shows](#) that variants of concern make up more than half of recently reported new COVID-19 infections. Ongoing strict public health measures will be needed to get the third wave under control. With so many variants making their way through the global population, it can be confusing trying to parse through "variants of interest" versus "variants of concern." The B.1.167 variant that has been circulating in India since October 2020, for example, has so far been classified as a variant "interest" as scientists have yet to determine how concerning it is and its role in the massive infection surge in India. [This explainer](#) helps us better understand the difference.

**Trudeau, Gen Xers and...millennials?** They say the best COVID-19 vaccine is the one in your arm. When health officials expanded the eligibility for the AstraZeneca vaccine to those over 40 this week, Canadians born between the 1960s and early 1980s [clamoured to get a shot](#), patiently waiting in long lines and booking up pharmacy appointments everywhere. The overwhelming demand alleviated some of the worry that few people would want the vaccine that had been plagued by fits and starts as health authorities sought to understand the constant flow of real-world data. Prime Minister Trudeau and his wife Sophie Gregoire Trudeau [got theirs on Friday](#), NDP Leader Jagmeet Singh was jabbed on Wednesday, while Conservative Leader Erin O'Toole has an appointment scheduled for the weekend. The National Advisory Committee of Immunization (NACI) also [dropped the age](#) of eligibility again on Friday, recommending AstraZeneca to **anyone 30 years and older**.

**Vaccination ramp-up.** After Canada's vaccine delivery schedule faced additional setbacks, the federal government is expecting deliveries of 1.9 million doses next week. While we're currently ahead of projections, the number of doses coming into the country is [still below](#) what provinces and territories are capable of administering each week. Canada has yet to receive any of the Johnson & Johnson vaccines, for example, after one of the major manufacturing plants producing the medicine was forced to halt operations [due to unsanitary conditions and practices](#), according to a highly critical report by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. At the same time, [lineups at vaccine clinics](#) in COVID-19 hotspots show a lack of resources in lower-income neighbourhoods with more marginalized communities, doctors say.

**Dying before getting care.** First the less-bad news: the rate of COVID-19 related deaths [has not been increasing](#) at the same rate as the hospitalizations, despite [ICUs filling up](#) in hot spots across the country. Even so, infections have nonetheless been rising at an alarming rate for eight consecutive weeks in Canada and abroad, with one expert warning that things in Canada will "[get worse](#) in the next few weeks". In Ontario, hospitals as far as North Bay have received COVID-19 [patient transfers from ICUs](#) in Southern Ontario. Provincial health officials are also now investigating an alarming trend where those infected are [rapidly deteriorating and dying](#) before they are able to seek medical care.

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**Don't linger after flushing.** A new research exploring COVID-19 transmission suggests you [may not want to linger](#) after flushing a public toilet. Previous research and several wastewater monitoring programs have already established that wastewater is a good early indicator of infection. Flushing a toilet can generate large quantities of microbe-containing aerosols. A major outbreak of SARS in an apartment block in Hong Kong in 2003 was eventually traced back to a high concentration of SARS aerosols that were drawn through bathroom exhaust fans. Meanwhile, an increasing number of doctors and scientists believe COVID-19 is [primarily spread through the air](#) and that public health measures need adjusting to reflect the new evidence.



## **Decision making in pandemic times**

Political leaders across Canada have struggled to make the right call throughout this pandemic, to varying degrees of success. In Ottawa, an emergency parliamentary debate that was supposed to be a forum for cross-party collaboration on better ways to combat the COVID-19 pandemic devolved into another round of [partisan finger-pointing](#).

In B.C., Premier John Horgan said the province is developing new regulations to [restrict movement](#) within the province and along the Alberta border. In Manitoba, which is in the midst of a third wave, doctors in the province are calling for the government to tighten restrictions. Premier Brian Pallister [have resisted those calls](#), saying Manitoba has some of the more stringent restrictions in the country, but that the government must also worry about the economic costs of another shutdown. In Nova Scotia, Premier Iain Rankin announced [tighter restrictions](#) in the Halifax area to help curb the spread.

No political leader has faced more backlash from the medical community, [the public](#), and [critics](#), however, as much as Ontario premier Doug Ford, who apologized on Thursday for some of those decisions. "Simply, [we got it wrong](#). We made a mistake," he said in a virtual news conference. Ford has been [in isolation](#) after learning that a staff member has tested positive.

"What people want is some sort of certainty," said Nanos Research's Nik Nanos in an episode of Trend Line recorded prior to Ford's apology. "What we saw at least in the province of Ontario is a



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significant lack of stability." You can **listen** to the CTV Trend Line podcast [here](#). (If you're interested in more politics, you can stay up-to-date on the latest news from Parliament Hill with our [Capital Dispatch newsletter](#).)



## **#ABrightSide in dark times**

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

After every tenth dose of vaccine administered at the Lawlor Pharmacy in Toronto's Beaches neighbourhood, the place erupts like a bar on a busy Saturday night: owner and manager Kyro Maseh rings a bell and yells "shots in the arm!", his staff responding in kind with "COVID gone!", as bemused customers look on.

It's a ritual that Maseh began as a way to keep spirits high in the midst of a scary and stressful COVID-19 third wave in Ontario.

"We just thought that there has to be a way to motivate the staff and motivate people getting vaccinated because we're going to be doing this a lot," he told CTV's Your Morning on Friday. Read [the 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?](#)
- [Pregnant people in Ontario now eligible for COVID-19 vaccine under 'highest risk' designation](#)
- [Alta. legislation would protect continuing care homes from COVID-19 lawsuits, lawyer calls bill 'sickening'](#)
- ['It's no secret': Union rep says paid sick days, COVID-19 vaccines needed to keep warehouse workers safe](#)
- [Scientific paper claiming smokers less likely to contract COVID-19 retracted over tobacco industry links](#)
- ['Golf is safe': Golfers, health experts say Ontario needs to re-evaluate closure of courses](#)
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- [With no international travel, Canadians turn to their own backyards](#)
- [Feelings of isolation worse now than at any point during pandemic: report](#)
- [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://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>

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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>

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**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=IwAR1NzQXV3eUgFa5bSimQ2wiRpXVVMZc1LPbpg5fUNIDFIK1Sc7yjhcc4aB>

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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