

May 28, 2021



PLEASE POST

## COVID – 19 UPDATE 33

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@uniforblocals.ca](mailto:gaucher@uniforblocals.ca) Mark in the subject line: Local 114 Member working during COVID-19.

Our members at Ocean Lehigh in Victoria have been Locked Out since April 30<sup>th</sup>.



Send messages of support to <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=local%20114>

<https://www.facebook.com/jim.sadlemyer.1>

May 28, 2021



<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021PREM0037-001008>

- With more than 60% of adults vaccinated with their first dose and COVID-19 case counts and hospitalizations steadily declining, British Columbia is moving forward with the cautious first step of a four-step plan for a careful and safe restart.
- “British Columbians have sacrificed so much over the last 15 months to help keep people and our communities safe,” said Premier John Horgan. “We have made tremendous strides with our vaccination program, and we are now in a position where we can move forward with a plan to slowly bring us back together. As we have done throughout this pandemic, we will be closely following the guidance of public health and supporting people and businesses as we take the next steps in putting this pandemic behind us.”
- BC’s Restart – a four-step plan to bring B.C. back together will be a slow and gradual return to a more normal life, with safety and health protocols such as mask wearing and physical distancing remaining in place and mandatory during the initial two steps of the plan.
- The four-step plan was designed based on data and guidance from the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) and Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.’s provincial health officer (PHO). Progressing through the steps will be measured by the number of adults vaccinated, COVID-19 case counts and hospitalizations and deaths, taking into account clusters and outbreaks. While there are approximate dates, the plan will be guided by data, not dates, and will not proceed to the next step until it is safe to do so based on guidance from public health and the latest available data.
- “We have been on a long and tiring journey, and now we can start to chart our path forward to brighter days ahead,” Henry said. “To be successful in this next phase of the pandemic, we need to keep COVID-19 low and slow. To do that, we need to be slow and measured in our approach, gradually turning up the dial on how we spend time together – whether that is socializing with family, going to work or visiting friends.”
- The step-by-step plan will follow approximate timelines and will ease people and businesses slowly out of the pandemic.
- The four steps are:
  - **Step 1: May 25**
    - 60% of adult population with Dose 1
    - COVID-19 cases stable, hospitalizations stable
      - Maximum of five visitors or one household allowed for indoor personal gatherings
      - Maximum of 10 people for outdoor personal gatherings
      - Maximum of 10 people for seated indoor organized gatherings with safety protocols
      - Maximum of 50 people for seated outdoor organized gatherings with safety protocols
      - Recreational travel only within travel region (travel restrictions extended)
      - Indoor and outdoor dining for up to six people with safety protocols
      - Resume outdoor sports (games) with no spectators, low-intensity fitness with safety protocols
      - Start gradual return to workplaces
      - Provincewide mask mandate, business safety protocols and physical distancing measures remain in place
      - Return of indoor in-person faith-based gatherings (reduced capacity) based on consultation with public health

**May 28, 2021**

- **Step 2: Mid-June (June 15 – earliest date)**
  - 65% of adult population with Dose 1
  - Cases declining, COVID-19 hospitalizations declining
    - Maximum of 50 people for outdoor social gatherings
    - Maximum of 50 people for seated indoor organized gatherings (banquet halls, movie theatres, live theatre) with safety protocols
    - Consultation process to prepare for larger indoor and outdoor gatherings with safety protocols
    - No B.C. travel restrictions – check local travel advisories
    - Indoor sports (games) and high-intensity fitness with safety protocols
    - Spectators for outdoor sports (50 maximum)
    - Provincewide mask mandate, business safety protocols and physical distancing measures remain in place
  
- **Step 3: Early July (July 1 – earliest date)**
  - 70% of adult population with Dose 1
  - Cases low, COVID-19 hospitalizations declining
    - Provincial state of emergency and public health emergency lifted
    - Returning to usual for indoor and outdoor personal gatherings
    - Increased capacity for indoor and outdoor organized gatherings, with safety plans
    - Nightclubs and casinos reopen with capacity limits and safety plans
    - New public health and workplace guidance around personal protective equipment, physical distancing and business protocols
  
- **Step 4: Early September (Sept. 7 – earliest date)**
  - More than 70% of adult population with Dose 1
  - Cases low and stable (contained clusters), COVID-19 hospitalizations low
    - Returning to normal social contact
    - Increased capacity at larger organized gatherings
    - No limits on indoor and outdoor spectators at sports
    - Businesses operating with new safety plans
  
- For Step 1 and Step 2, restaurants, bars and pubs, as well as indoor fitness facilities, are to return to the existing safety protocols that were in place prior to the circuit breaker restrictions. For other sectors, existing safety protocols remain in place for Step 1 and Step 2, including existing safety protocols at schools and daycares. In Step 1, hotels and other accommodation providers are encouraged to welcome guests from inside their region. In Step 2, the invitation can be extended to guests from throughout the province.
- Prior to steps 3 and 4, sector associations will work with public health and WorkSafeBC to update sector guidelines to meet updated public health guidance.
- All updated workplace safety plans should be ready by July 1 prior to shifting into Step 3. These plans will be based on updated sector guidelines.
- Roundtables led by ministries across government will engage with industry and labour, along with WorkSafeBC and public health, to help develop comprehensive updated industry-specific safety plans, as well as engage with First Nations and municipal governments.
- “We are able to begin this restart because of the sacrifice and dedication from so many people and businesses throughout B.C.,” said Ravi Kahlon, Minister of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation.

**May 28, 2021**

“As we transition through the restart plan, we will continue to engage with businesses, industry and key stakeholders. I know that the entrepreneurial spirit of B.C.’s business community will again rise to the challenge as we work together to build a brighter and better future with meaningful jobs and a strong, sustainable economy for all.”

- In-class K-12 education will continue to operate under existing safety protocols for steps 1 and 2. In preparation for the return to classes in the fall, the COVID-19 education steering committee will work with public health officials to update safety guidelines.

- The Province is formally extending the provincial state of emergency through the end of the day on June 8, 2021, allowing health and emergency management officials to continue to use extraordinary powers under the Emergency Program Act to support the Province's COVID-19 pandemic response. The original declaration was made on March 18, 2020, the day after Henry declared a public health emergency, and can be extended for periods of up to 14 days at a time.

- Provincial travel restrictions will continue to be enforced until Step 2 of the four-step plan.

- **Learn More:**

- To view the May 25, 2021, media presentation on BC’s Restart,

visit: <http://news.gov.bc.ca/files/BCRestartPlan.pdf>

- To learn more about BC’s Restart – a four-step plan to bring B.C. back together, visit:

<https://www.gov.bc.ca/restartbc>

- To learn about B.C.’s current travel restrictions, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/covidtravel>

- To learn about current PHO restrictions, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/COVIDrestrictions>

- To get registered to get a first or second dose of COVID-19 vaccine, visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated.html>

- For technical immunization information, visit the BCCDC’s website: [www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine](http://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](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine/getting-a-vaccine)

-----  
<https://onlineeducation.unifor.org/>

## Unifor Online Education



[Webinar Sign-Up](#)

May 28, 2021

<https://onlineeducation.unifor.org/webinars>

Unifor's Education Department will host a series of informative Webinars throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Webinars related to mental health, human rights, activism, women's leadership, health & safety, workers' rights, public pension programs and politics ensure that issues important to our members remain in the forefront.

By participating in these free webinars, members can engage with experts and get answers to urgent questions quickly and effectively.

Unifor remains committed to providing members with timely assistance and support during this very challenging and difficult time.



### Online Courses

1-DAY



**Please Note: If you require time off work (Leave of Absence) to participate in a course, do not register until you have the approval of your Local Union.**

### **B.C. | Basic Health & Safety (Online)**

This one-day introductory course is intended for new health and safety representatives. Participants will learn about provincial health and safety legislation, worker rights, and the role of health and safety reps in the workplace.

May 28, 2021

<https://links.bellmedia-ctv.mkt4301.com/servlet/MailView?ms=MzMzNzY3MTIS1&r=MzExNTI5NTE5OTU5S0&j=MTk0NDE2MTEyOAS2&mt=1&rt=0>



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

May 25, 2021

# 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](#)

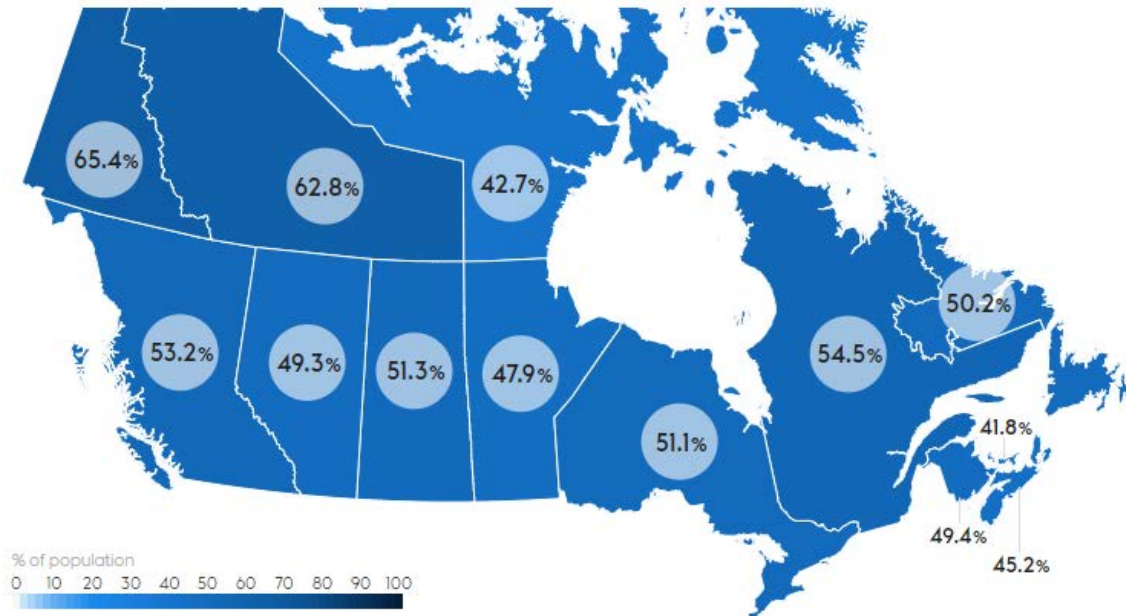
**The outbreak by the numbers** (as of 12:00 p.m. EDT Tuesday, May 25, 2021):

- **Canada:** 1,361,564 cases | 51,706 active | 25,265 deceased
- **Globally:** 167,434,110 cases | 3,475,915 deceased

**Vaccine shipment forecasts** (as of 12:00 p.m. EDT Tuesday, May 25, 2021)

- Next **Pfizer-BioNTech** allocation: 2,413,710 doses for week of May 31, 2021
- 600K Pfizer-BioNTech doses [arriving this week](#) after 1.4M were delivered early

May 28, 2021



### Vaccinations by the numbers (as of 12:00 p.m. EDT Tuesday, May 25, 2021)

- **Globally:** 1,702,040,382 doses administered | 9.95% of population first dose
- **Canada:** 19,616,143 first doses | 1,665,783 second doses | 51.61%
- **British Columbia:** 2,738,344 first doses | 147,144 second doses | 53.2%
- **Alberta:** 2,178,851 first doses | 353,292 second doses | 49.3%
- **Saskatchewan:** 604,674 first doses | 58,180 second doses | 51.3%
- **Manitoba:** 660,836 first doses | 87,434 second doses | 47.9%
- **Ontario:** 7,707,354 first doses | 544,288 second doses | 52.3%
- **Quebec:** 4,723,813 first doses | 327,868 second doses | 55.1%
- **New Brunswick:** 385,997 first doses | 36,013 second doses | 49.4%
- **Nova Scotia:** 442,649 first doses | 40,900 second doses | 45.2%
- **Prince Edward Island:** 66,661 first doses | 12,156 second doses | 41.8%
- **Newfoundland and Labrador:** 262,096 first doses | 10,466 second doses | 50.2%
- **Yukon:** 27,504 first doses | 24,254 second doses | 65.4%
- **Northwest Territories:** 28,360 first doses | 22,960 second doses | 62.8%
- **Nunavut:** 17,044 first doses | 14,113 second doses | 43.3%



May 28, 2021

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

**Snapshot across Canada.** Canada managed to double its vaccinations in the past five weeks with now [more than half](#) of the population having received at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine and daily infections dropping by roughly 25 per cent over the last week. **Quebec**, for example, also saw its hospitalization numbers drop to its [lowest level](#) in more than half a year on Friday and has the lowest number of [active cases](#) since September. Across many parts of Canada, plans to [ease restrictions](#) continue as numbers falls. **Ontario** for one, began allowing [outdoor visits](#) at long-term care homes this past weekend.

Still, hospitalizations, deaths, and critical-care admissions remain high overall, even as those numbers are also slowly declining. According to CTVNews.ca's [case tracker](#), **Manitoba** has yet to turn its infection numbers around, and remains the [worst-hit region in Canada](#). We're also keeping an eye on **Newfoundland and Labrador**, where a [growing cluster of infections](#) in the northeast region has put a number of communities on the province's second-highest alert level.

The country's deputy chief public health officer, Dr. Howard Njoo, said with more doses arriving very quickly, Canada was "well on track" to offering the second dose. While Canada has [surpassed the U.S.](#) in **first-dose vaccinations**, just over four per cent are fully vaccinated, compared with 39 per cent in the U.S. Njoo cautioned that with resurgences always occurring after a holiday, our actions this past long weekend were crucial and that it is far too soon to let our guards down.

**'Please breathe.'** We have a story out of Montreal about a group of 20 medical specialists who used ['extraordinary' measures](#) to save Lor Chou Tang, who was 32 weeks pregnant and fighting a serious case of COVID-19. Montreal videojournalist Cindy Sherwin takes an in-depth look at the incredible team work involved in saving Tang and baby Bella's life.

**Border disappointment.** Friday, I closed with a story about the Blackfeet Tribe in Montana sharing their excess doses with Canadians through a cross-border initiative that was approved by tribal administration and by federal officials on both sides of the border. Unfortunately, the drive-through clinics have [come to an end](#) after U.S. Customs and Border Protection said Canadians driving across the border just to get a vaccine would be denied entry and Canada's Public Health Agency said Canadians would not be exempt from a 14-day quarantine upon their return.

**Costly house party.** Officials reminded the public about the risks of unsafe gatherings over the long weekend, but not everyone followed the rules. [A large house party](#) in Cole Harbour, N.S. involving around 30 people, strobe lights, and music resulted in a massive fine of \$21,978 in total -- so far - - issued to nine attendees, with police saying more fines could follow.



May 28, 2021



## The latest headlines in...

**VACCINE NEWS.** Have a teenager at home waiting to get a shot? We've got the latest information by province available [here](#). Efforts to get younger people vaccinated are now ramping up, with Ontario becoming the latest province to open its provincial booking system to [kids 12 and over](#). At the same time, some family doctors are saying they're being [left out of the roll-out process](#) and have trouble accessing vaccine doses that could help more patients get inoculated.

- [When it comes to 'mixing and matching', NACI recommends using the same type](#)
- [Moderna doses 'haven't disappeared': Feds still banking on deliveries before end of June](#)
- [Courtroom showdown: EU takes on AstraZeneca in vaccine row](#)

**RESEARCH & DATA.** With so much still to learn about COVID-19, it can be a challenging balancing act making information public and ensuring transparency, while putting it in an appropriate context. As vaccinations expand to those 12 and up, the U.S. CDC is recommending further study into reports that some teenagers and younger adults who receive the vaccines experience [heart inflammation](#). The CDC notes, however, that the condition often goes away without complications and can be caused by a variety of viruses. In addition, it has not found more cases than would be expected in the population.

- [New study shows why some children may be experiencing more severe symptoms](#)
- [Early research suggests dogs might be able to sniff out COVID-19 infections](#)

**THE WORLD THIS WEEK.** Nearly a year and a half since the earliest cases of COVID-19 were found in Wuhan, experts still do not know the exact origins of the virus. A new detail in a U.S. intelligence report that said several researchers at **China's** Wuhan Institute of Virology fell ill enough in November 2019 that they sought hospital care, however, is [renewing debate](#) on the origins of the virus. A director of the lab and a foreign ministry spokesman have both refuted the report.

Meanwhile, Asia continues to see rising cases. With just two months until the Olympics, hospitals in **Osaka, Japan**, are reportedly buckling under a wave of [new coronavirus infections](#), running out of

**May 28, 2021**

beds and ventilators, and doctors are advising against holding the international sporting event this summer. The U.S. has also warned its citizens [not to travel to Japan](#), where only two per cent of the population has been fully vaccinated so far and just over [five per cent](#) have had one shot.

- [They recovered from COVID-19, only to die of 'black fungus'](#)
- [Malaysia's worsening COVID-19 outbreak sparks alarm](#)
- [Nepal says Everest climbing continues despite reports of COVID-19](#)

## **How it affects me**

Anxious about returning to pre-pandemic life? We offer some tips on how to cope with the uneasiness that comes with returning to 'normalcy', including facing your fears, looking at the facts, taking your time, and seeking professional help if everything becomes too much. You can [read more here](#).

## **And one last thing...**

Animals have been a great source of comfort for many individuals and families in isolation. In Quebec, a farm dedicated to improving the quality of life for retired horses is also [making a difference](#) in the lives of those facing the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic, including isolated seniors and health-care workers.

Thank you for reading,  
*Solarina Ho, CTVNews.ca writer*

Have feedback about the newsletter? Send [your comments here](#).



For more news on the coronavirus in Canada:

- [Vaccine tracker: How many people have received shots?](#)
- [Variant tracker: What are the strains and where are they?](#)
- [LIVE UPDATES: What's the latest in Canada and around the world today](#)
-

May 28, 2021

---

**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>

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:**

**May 28, 2021**

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>

---

---

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

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

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

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

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

**New Westminster Office 604.524.9457 1.800.841.5911**

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

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

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

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

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

