

Aug 30, 2021



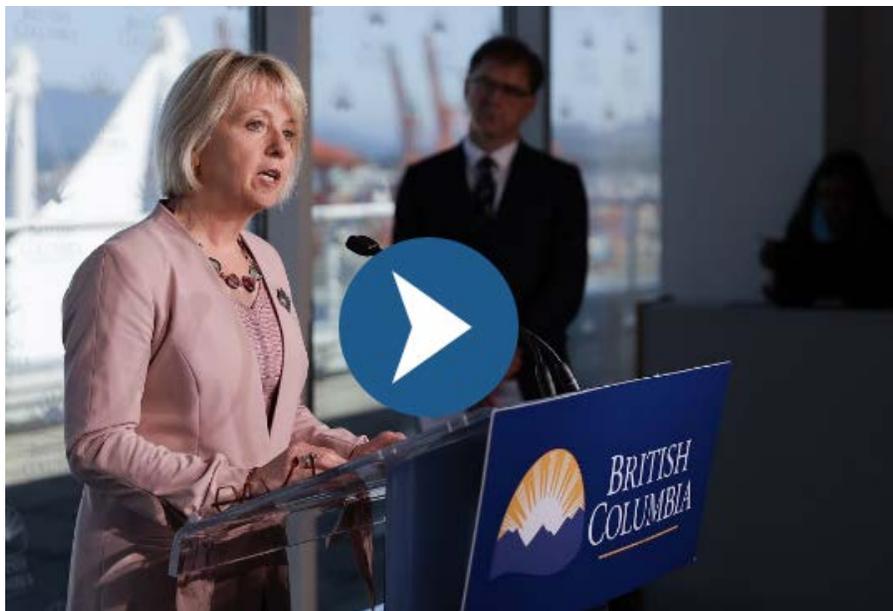
PLEASE POST

COVID – 19 UPDATE 37

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://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021HLTH0053-001659>



Starting Sept. 13, 2021, proof of vaccination will be required in B.C. for people attending certain social and recreational settings and events.

This important step will continue to increase the vaccination rate across the province and provide confidence to fully vaccinated people that those around them are also fully vaccinated.

“Vaccines are our ticket to putting this pandemic behind us,” said Premier John Horgan. “So I call on all eligible unvaccinated British Columbians to roll up their sleeves to stop the spread, and help protect themselves, their loved ones and the people in their community. British Columbia has one of the strongest vaccination rates in Canada with 75% of eligible people now fully vaccinated, but there is still more work to do.”

A new order from the provincial health officer will require individuals to provide proof of vaccination to access a broad range of social, recreational, and discretionary events and businesses throughout the

Aug 30, 2021

province. As of Sept. 13, one dose of vaccine will be required for entry to these settings. By Oct. 24, entry to these settings will require people to be fully vaccinated at least seven days after receiving both doses. To enter certain spaces, including indoor ticketed sporting events, indoor and patio dining in restaurants, fitness centres, casinos and indoor organized events, like conferences and weddings, people aged 12 and older will be required to show their proof of vaccination.

“I am grateful to every single person who has taken the time to receive their COVID-19 vaccine,” said Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.’s provincial health officer. “While our vaccination rate continues to rise, we are still seeing waves of transmission primarily amongst those who are not fully vaccinated. These new measures will help reduce transmission and keep our communities safe and ensure we can continue to keep businesses open and safely enjoy much-needed social events.”

A secure weblink will be provided and publicized before Sept. 13, where people will be able to confidentially access their proof of vaccination. Individuals will be able to save a copy of their proof of vaccination to their phone to show it when entering or using designated businesses and events. Individuals who cannot access their proof of vaccination online will be provided with a secure alternative option.

“Getting vaccinated keeps everyone in B.C. safe and stops the spread of COVID-19,” said Adrian Dix, Minister of Health. “And getting vaccinated is the best choice to protect yourself, the people you love and to ensure you can continue to participate in these public and private events and settings. Our B.C. vaccine card is an essential interim action until we transition to a federally compliant proof of vaccine.”

By getting vaccinated prior to Sept. 13, every British Columbian can continue to access these events and settings.

Details on specific COVID-19 safety requirements for K-12 and post-secondary schools will be available this week.

Learn More:

Learn about proof of vaccination requirements and the B.C. vaccine card at: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/proof>

<https://links.bellmedia-ctv.mkt4301.com/servlet/MailView?ms=MzM2MzE5NzQS1&r=MzExNTI5NTE5OTU5S0&i=MjAwNTM3O TMwNgS2&mt=1&rt=0>



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August 27, 2021

Aug 30, 2021

THE COVID-19 BRIEF

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

our 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 5:00 p.m. EDT Friday, August 27, 2021):

- **Canada:** 1,484,112 cases | 27,052 active | 26,881 deceased
- **Globally:** 215,106,535 cases | 4,480,969 deceased

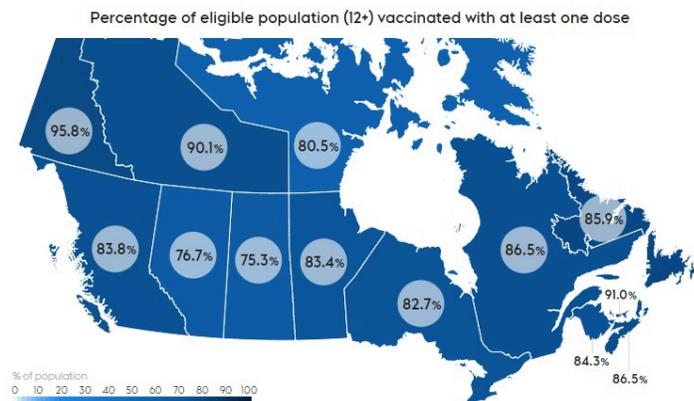
Vaccine shipment forecasts (as of 5:00 p.m. EDT Friday, August 27, 2021)

- Total vaccines distributed in Canada: 63,720,084
- No current shipment allocations

Vaccinations by the numbers (as of 5:00 p.m. EDT Friday, August 27, 2021)

Map shows percentage of *eligible* population (12+) vaccinated with at least one dose; percentages table below are for *total* population.

Eligible population (12+) in Canada: 83.03% first dose | 75.15% fully vaccinated



Aug 30, 2021

- **World:** 5,130,003,995 doses given | 33% first dose | 25% fully vaccinated
- **Canada:** 73% have received at least one dose | 66.1% fully vaccinated
- **British Columbia:** 75.2% at least one dose | 67.8% fully vaccinated
- **Alberta:** 65.3% at least one dose | 58.2% fully vaccinated
- **Saskatchewan:** 66% at least one dose | 58.5% fully vaccinated
- **Manitoba:** 71.1% at least one dose | 65.8% fully vaccinated
- **Ontario:** 73.1% at least one dose | 67% fully vaccinated
- **Quebec:** 75.5% at least one dose | 67.9% fully vaccinated
- **New Brunswick:** 74.8% at least one dose | 66.1% fully vaccinated
- **Nova Scotia:** 76.9% at least one dose | 69.7% fully vaccinated
- **Prince Edward Island:** 80.1% at least one dose | 70.1% fully vaccinated
- **Newfoundland and Labrador:** 79.6% one dose | 68.5% fully vaccinated
- **Yukon:** 78.8% at least one dose | 75.2% fully vaccinated
- **Northwest Territories:** 75.7% at least one dose | 71.1% fully vaccinated
- **Nunavut:** 59.7% at least one dose | 52.4% fully vaccinated



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

Herd immunity unreachable without vaccinated kids. With more than 10 million Canadians unvaccinated against COVID-19, half of them children who are ineligible, infectious disease experts warn that masking, physical distancing, testing and other public health [protocols must continue](#) in order to prevent the fourth wave from getting out of control and straining the health-care system again. At the same time, Public Health Ontario says achieving [herd immunity will not even be possible](#) without vaccinating children under 12.

A passport by any other name...B.C.'s vaccine passport system is coming and those who are not vaccinated, including for medical or religious reasons, [will not get an exemption](#). In **Alberta**, residents will soon be able to get their proof of vaccination record in a "[more convenient](#)" card-sized form. The province, however, stresses this is not a vaccine passport and that it is up to Albertans on how they will use it.

According to a top doctor in **Ontario**, regional health units within the province will implement their own [proof of vaccination certificate](#) in September if the province does not roll out a province-wide system. The Ford government has long resisted calls for a vaccine passport, but sources have told CTV News that they are [now considering one](#) amid rising cases.

Aug 30, 2021

Quebec's own version will come into effect next Wednesday, becoming the [first province to require proof of vaccination](#) on a province-wide scale for non-essential enclosed public spaces. Some cybersecurity experts who have looked at the Quebec system's design have also said that it could serve as a [model for the entire country](#). A Toronto company has also built a similar app to the one being used in Quebec that would allow businesses in jurisdictions with no passport mandate [to vet their own customers](#).

- [The latest on what provinces have to say about vaccine passports](#)
- [Liberals promise funding for provinces that develop vaccine passports](#)

Private sector, others getting tough on vaccinations. Last week, Canada's five largest banks announced vaccination requirements for employees. This week, we saw another round of businesses and organizations announcing tough new vaccine mandates. The [University Health Network in Toronto](#) (which includes Princess Margaret hospital), [several major Canadian long-term care operators](#), and [Air Canada](#) were among those mandating that employees be fully vaccinated or face consequences including termination or being placed on an unpaid leave of absence. And the **Toronto Blue Jays** are also requiring vaccinations or negative COVID-19 tests for [all fans aged 12 and up](#).

Fourth wave snapshot across Canada. A quick glance at CTVNews.ca's [case tracker shows cases are rising](#) across most regions in Canada, but especially sharply in [B.C.](#), [Alberta](#), and Saskatchewan. In **Alberta**, for example, hospitalizations and ICU counts are [hitting two and a half month highs](#). **B.C.** officials meanwhile, are also offering hundreds of residents [an additional shot](#) after determining they received an "invalid" dose because they were stored in the wrong kind of freezer. In **Saskatchewan**, where the seven-day average for new cases are at levels not seen since around mid-May and [hospitalizations have doubled](#) since all public health measures were dropped in July, the health minister is [pushing back](#) against reinstating restrictions or enforcing vaccine requirements.

Ontario reported nearly [800 new cases](#) on Friday, the highest daily case count since early July, while the positivity rate has climbed to three per cent. Earlier this week, a member of the province's COVID-19 science table [resigned](#), alleging that politics seemed to be influencing public health recommendations and that modelling data was projecting a "grim fall." An outbreak at a basketball tournament attended by teams from all over the province and across Canada has prompted health officials to ask those who attended the event -- some 7,000 people -- [get tested "immediately"](#).

Quebec is also seeing an [increase in hospitalizations](#) and ICU cases, and a case in the province is garnering some attention: an [unvaccinated nurse](#) working in the emergency room at a hospital has tested positive for COVID-19, along with a patient with whom she had contact. The province has already announced that health-care workers must be vaccinated by mid-October. Separately, the province is also recommending all employers [delay their plans to bring workers back](#) into the office due to the rise in cases.

Cases remain comparatively low in **Atlantic Canada**, but provinces are also exercising caution, with [Nova Scotia tightening its border](#) again with **New Brunswick** and **P.E.I.** stating it will maintain some public safety measures [until mid-October](#).

Masks are back. For some of us, mask mandates never went away, but in parts of Canada where masks have been off for a while, officials are requiring them again as infections rise.

Aug 30, 2021

B.C. is [reinstating the safety measure](#) again for indoor public spaces, [including students](#) in Grade 4 and higher. Earlier this month, the province's Human Rights Tribunal [dismissed a complaint](#) from a woman who declined to put on a mask at a jewelry store, after she did not provide sufficient information to make her case. [Quebec](#) and [Manitoba](#) are also making [masks mandatory](#) again, but [Alberta](#) and [Saskatchewan](#) have signalled they [will not be following](#) their neighbours' lead.



[The latest headlines...](#)

In vaccines. Health Canada has now authorized [Moderna](#) for use in older children, saying the vaccine is ["safe and effective" for children](#) between the ages of 12 and 17.

Some of the concerns among those who are hesitant about the vaccine are reports of [breakthrough cases](#). We spoke with experts, including Dr. Isaac Bogoch, to help [explain what it means](#) and the science between these rare cases. Speaking of breakthrough cases, a fully vaccinated Ontario woman shares her story of how she and her son were ["crammed like sardines"](#) inside the Toronto airport and have now become infected.

- [COVID-19 vaccines can unlock enhanced immunity in former SARS patients: study](#)
- [Japan suspends 1.63M doses of Moderna over contamination](#)
- [WHO begins shipping Chinese vaccines despite some misgivings](#)
- [Israel's vaccine boosters show signs of taming Delta](#)
- [Drop in vaccine efficacy against Delta seen in U.S. nursing homes](#)

In fact-checking. The latest disturbing trend in so-called "alternative" COVID-19 treatments involve ivermectin, a drug commonly used to treat or prevent parasites for livestock. The FDA issued a plea for Americans to stop taking the de-wormer drug following "multiple reports of patients who have required medical support and hospitalized after [self-medicating with ivermectin intended for horses](#)." An arkansas doctor is [being investigated](#) for prescribing ivermectin thousands of times for COVID-19, despite the FDA warning.

In research and data. [Trial data for an antibody therapy from AstraZeneca](#) raised the prospect of a new treatment to prevent COVID-19 beyond vaccines, giving hope in particular for people who respond poorly to immunization shots. The U.K. drug regulator

Aug 30, 2021

has [also approved](#) an antibody cocktail developed by Regeneron and Roche to prevent and treat infections.

- [What is functional neurological disorder and is it connected to COVID-19 vaccines?](#)
- [High-efficiency masks up to six times better at filtering aerosols: Canadian study](#)
- [Alberta seeing pandemic spikes in excessive drinking, patients with liver damage](#)
- [Experts on WHO team say search for COVID-19 origins has stalled](#)
- [Large pandemics are statistically more likely than originally thought: study](#)

From around the world. Canada is among the latest countries added to the **United Kingdom's** [green travel list](#), meaning Canadian travellers will no longer have to quarantine upon arriving in the country.

The **United States** is projected to see nearly [100,000 more COVID-19 deaths](#) between now and Dec. 1, according to the country's most closely watched forecasting model.

Hawaii is being [hit hard](#) by the pandemic, with hospitals overflowing with the sick, and the governor urging tourists to stay away. In **Florida**, a judge ruled that school districts in the state can legally require their students to wear masks, [overriding an executive order](#) by the governor which banned such mandates. Former U.S. President Donald Trump was booed by supporters while speaking at a rally in **Alabama** after he [recommended](#) getting the COVID-19 vaccine.

- [COVID-19 vaccination triples in Africa but still low: WHO](#)
- [Paralympics opens under shadow of COVID-19, but athletes excited to compete](#)

How it affects you

Ask the doctor. With back to school just around the corner, many parents of teenaged children, especially boys, may be wondering whether to give their child a second COVID-19 vaccine shot or whether one shot is enough when balanced against the rare, but potential risk of an inflammation of the heart. Here's [what experts have to say](#).

- [Will the pandemic eliminate presenteeism from the workplace?](#)
- [Canadian travellers fined \\$5,700 each for getting wrong COVID-19 test](#)

One last thing...

Some recent headlines have seen some employers struggling to hire staff back to work, blaming federal income support programs for their troubles. This week, a couple of stories offer a counterpoint to that narrative. Workers say it's [low wages and instability](#) that are to blame for labour shortages, particularly in the restaurant industry. With so many stories about professionals reassessing their priorities during the pandemic and quitting well-paying desk jobs, it's not a surprise those in demanding, low-paying jobs are also doing the same. This [first-person account](#) gives voice to why they are not going back to their old job.

Thank you as always for reading and have a great weekend,
Solarina Ho, CTVNews.ca writer

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

Aug 30, 2021



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](#)

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

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>

Aug 30, 2021

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>

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