

Oct 19, 2021

PLEASE  POST

COVID – 19 UPDATE 40

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.

All the information contained is from various sources it is not Local 114 Policy or Local 114 Statements.

<https://www.unifor.org/campaigns/all-campaigns/covid-19-information-resources>

<https://www.unifor.org/news/all-news/open-letter-unifor-local-unions-activists-and-staff>

Open Letter to Unifor Local Unions, Activists, and Staff



October 15, 2021

Dear Unifor Local Unions, Activists and Staff:

Oct 19, 2021

On August 23, our union's National Executive Board (NEB) adopted a statement on [Comprehensive Workplace Immunization Programs and Mandatory Vaccinations](#). In this statement, our union took a position in favour of workplace mandatory vaccine policies as one important tool, among others, to keep workers safe, to sustain a reopening of Canada's economy and put an end to this pandemic.

This position is the outcome of detailed and rigorous discussion and debate between Board members, elected rank-and-file leaders representing Unifor members, in various sectors and constituencies, across the country. The question of vaccine mandates affects aviation workers differently than it affects forestry workers. Manufacturing workers will see it differently than health care or retail workers. In the end though, all workers must face the consequences of an ongoing pandemic that is still causing illness, suffering, and death in many regions across our country and the world.

As trade unionists, our work is not separate and distinct from the world we live in. We are living in unprecedented times - we have said it and acknowledged it time and time again. A pandemic is raging, and it will be with us for a while still.

The position we adopted as our union recognized that vaccines are an effective tool - among other COVID-19 prevention measures - to significantly reduce the risk of virus transmission. We have actively encouraged local union leadership and activists to get vaccinated. We have ourselves instituted internal policies to ensure our workplaces and event spaces are as healthy and safe as they can be, including a vaccine mandate for all Unifor staff.

Our position is about how we believe that Unifor members have a right to be safe at work and that it is our union's duty to uphold that right. We believe that all organizations should aim to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spread as much as possible. This should be done utilizing different tools such as workplace vaccine mandates, along with testing, pre-screening, greater availability of personal protective equipment, and other reasonable safety measures.

We have always been clear that vaccine mandates must accommodate for legitimate health exemptions, address personal privacy and data protection issues and uphold relevant human rights statutes – not unlike existing mandatory vaccine measures employed in Canada.

Contrary to what some have tried to say, our position is not one where we tell everyone they must get vaccinated, or that we support forced vaccinations. It remains an individual's choice to get vaccinated or not. However, we want our members to understand that there are direct consequences to choosing not to be vaccinated. It would be irresponsible for us as a union not to ensure our members have all the facts about the risks to their employment.

Our experiences as a union, including through collective bargaining as well as our interpretation of relevant laws, informs this position. We firmly and proudly stand by the position issued by our elected National Executive Board.

Many of you have been in touch over the last few weeks, expressing your appreciation for the Board's position. Many recognize the role that we collectively have to play to end this pandemic.

Now, it's our turn to thank you.

Oct 19, 2021

We know that many of our activists and staff have faced intense and difficult situations. We know that some individuals who oppose our position have resorted to harassment, threats, and disrespect towards their union representatives.

We want you to know that we will continue supporting you throughout this time and indeed that we will all continue supporting each other.

We want to be very clear. We are prepared to fight for the health and safety of all workers - for the right to a safe and healthy workplace, for the right to refuse unsafe work and for the right to speak out when employer policies breach the limits of what is reasonable. This is what our union is built to do. We will never sidestep this responsibility.

We will also continue to support a global approach to public health, vaccine equity, workers' voice and collaboration to bring this pandemic to an end. We recognize that members can seek guidance, support and representation in the workplace.

These times require leadership. These times require us as trade unionists to consider what is in the best interests of the collective, our co-workers, families, friends and communities. That is solidarity and the foundation of unionism.

In solidarity,

Jerry Dias
National President

Lana Payne
National Secretary-Treasurer

Renaud Gagné
Quebec Director

Media Contact

Hamid Osman

National Communications Representative

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<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data>

BC COVID-19 Data

Here you will find the latest data on COVID-19 in British Columbia.

1. [B.C. COVID-19 Dashboard](#)
2. Epidemiology
 - [COVID-19 Epidemiology App](#)
 - [B.C. Situation report](#)
 - [BC COVID-19 Surveillance Dashboard](#)
 - [Data summary](#)
3. Case data
 - [Variants](#)

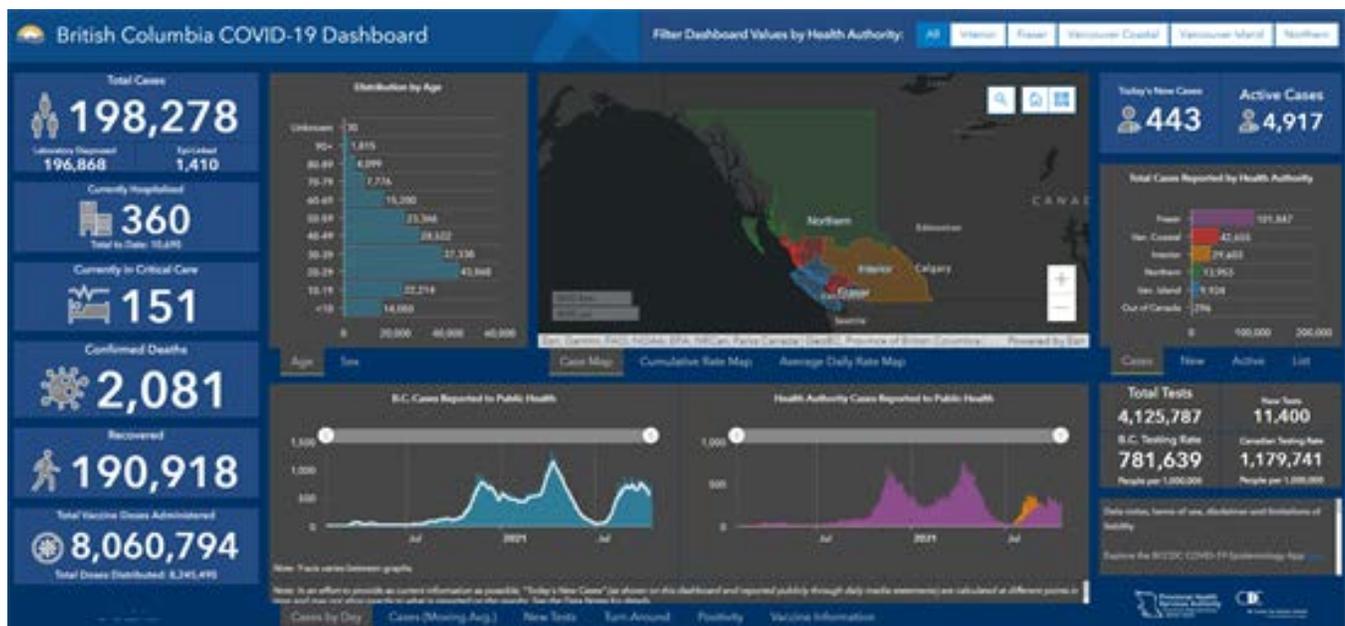
Oct 19, 2021

- - [Outbreak and case information](#)
 - [Maps: COVID-19 cases in B.C.](#)
4. [Vaccine Reports](#)
 5. [Links to national and international data sources](#)

COVID-19 Dashboard

This tool provides the latest information on cases, recoveries, deaths, hospitalizations, and testing. It is updated Monday to Friday at 4 p.m. Click on the links or image below to access:

- [BC COVID-19 Dashboard](#) (mobile and most browsers)



[Download the data](#)

Download BC COVID-19 data files.

[Case data](#)

[Lab data](#)

[Regional data](#)

If you are a GIS/Data Scientist looking to integrate dynamic data services into your own mapping/dashboard products please refer to the links below:

- [Case data \(spatial\)](#)
- [Case details](#)
- [Laboratory testing information](#)
- [Regional Summary Data](#)

[Data notes and disclaimer](#)

Oct 19, 2021

By accessing and using this dashboard, you agree to be bound by the [terms of use, disclaimer and limitation of liability](#). Organizations are welcome to link to or embed the dashboards on their websites.

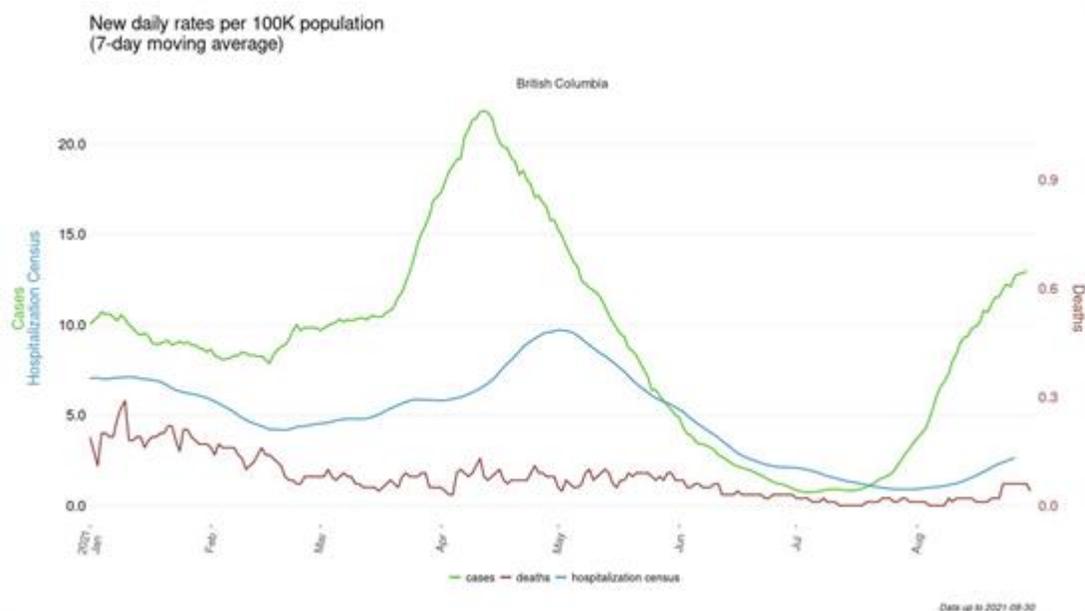
Read the [data notes](#).

Contact: admininfo@bccdc.ca

Epidemiology

COVID-19 Epidemiology App

This interactive tool visualizes the COVID-19 epidemiology in B.C. in comparison to other Canadian and global jurisdictions. It also includes data at the Health Authority and [Health Service Delivery Area \(HSDA\)](#) level for B.C. It is updated three times per week, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.



[Click to visit the COVID-19 Epidemiology App](#)

B.C. Situation Report

The situation report provides a more in-depth look at COVID-19 epidemiology, underscoring data and key trends. It is published weekly, on Wednesdays.

- October 13 - [Epi-week 39: Sept 26 - October 02, 2021](#)
- October 06 - [Epi-week 38: Sept 19 - Sept 25, 2021](#)

Oct 19, 2021

<https://links.bellmedia-ctv.mkt4301.com/servlet/MailView?ms=MzM4MDIzNzQS1&r=MzExNTI5NTE5OTU5S0&j=MjA0MzczOD A4MwS2&mt=1&rt=0>



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

October 15, 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 2:00 p.m. EDT Friday, October 15, 2021):

- **Canada:** 1,674,715 cases | 35,038 active | 28,433 deceased
- **Globally:** 239,869,914 cases | 4,886,244 deceased

Vaccinations by the numbers (as of 2:00 p.m. EDT Friday, October 15, 2021)

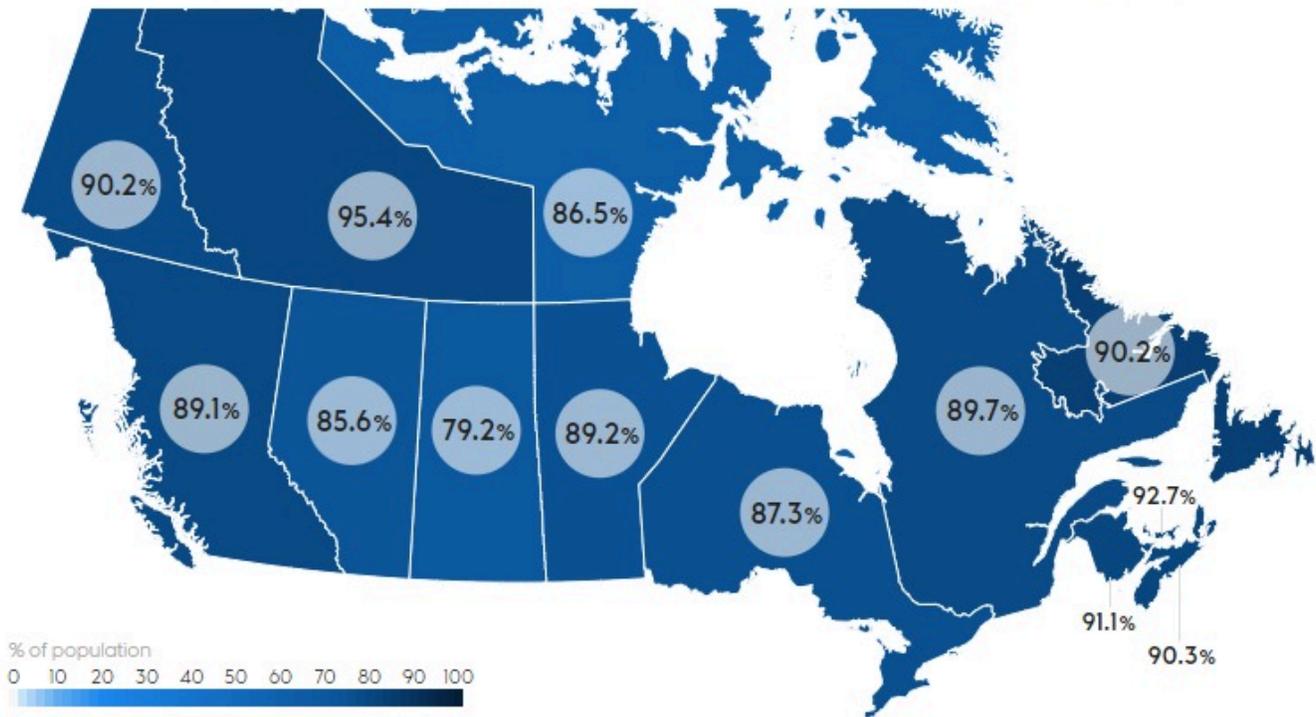
- Total vaccine distribution as of October 15, 2021: 64,189,084

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: 87.97% first dose | 82.54% fully vaccinated

Oct 19, 2021

Percentage of eligible population (12+) vaccinated with at least one dose



- **World:** 6,614,715,637 doses given | 47.3% first dose | 35.7% fully vaccinated
- **Canada:** 77% have received at least one dose | 72.2% fully vaccinated
- **British Columbia:** 79.2% at least one dose | 73.7% fully vaccinated
- **Alberta:** 72.8% at least one dose | 65% fully vaccinated
- **Saskatchewan:** 68.4% at least one dose | 64.4% fully vaccinated
- **Manitoba:** 75.6% at least one dose | 71.1% fully vaccinated
- **Ontario:** 76.6% at least one dose | 72.6% fully vaccinated
- **Quebec:** 78.6% at least one dose | 74.8% fully vaccinated
- **New Brunswick:** 80.3% at least one dose | 72.1% fully vaccinated
- **Nova Scotia:** 80.5% at least one dose | 75.1% fully vaccinated
- **Prince Edward Island:** 82.0% at least one dose | 76.2% fully vaccinated
- **Newfoundland and Labrador:** 83.8% one dose | 77.3% fully vaccinated
- **Yukon:** 78.5% at least one dose | 76% fully vaccinated
- **Northwest Territories:** 80.1% at least one dose | 75.7% fully vaccinated
- **Nunavut:** 64.2% at least one dose | 56.5% fully vaccinated

** Percentages have been adjusted to reflect updated population figures and third doses in some provinces*

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

U.S. land borders to reopen. After a year and nearly eight months, the U.S. is expected to [reopen its land borders](#) to vaccinated non-essential travelers on Nov. 8. There are still a number of [details that remain unclear](#) however, including whether [mixed doses](#) will meet eligibility requirements.

- [U.S. land border reopening to Canadians Nov. 8: What you need to know](#)

Oct 19, 2021

- [Expect vaccine passports for travel 'in the next couple of months': LeBlanc](#)
-
- [Ottawa eyes charging airport security with vaccine verification for travellers](#)

Snapshot across Canada. While [last week's news](#) that the fourth wave is levelling off is clearly good news, some regions, including Saskatchewan and New Brunswick, have yet to crest the curve. **Saskatchewan's** death rate during the fourth wave is the [highest in Canada](#) and intensive care patients are exceeding the province's normal capacity. Nearly all new infections are among those under 30. In **New Brunswick**, infections and hospitalizations are hitting levels not seen since the pandemic began, prompting hospitals to move to [Red Alert level](#).

Cases are also rising in the **Northwest Territories**, which now has the [highest number of infections](#) on a per capita basis. New infections remain high in **Northern B.C.** as well, prompting health authorities to [implement new restrictions](#) in the region. And while the situation in **Alberta** has improved significantly, case numbers and [deaths remain high](#).

- [Health authorities fight to conceal B.C. hospital outbreak findings](#)
- [B.C. MLA cites 'Alberta influence' on vaccines as having 'set us back'](#)
- ['Do what you need to do': Military nurse in Alberta hospital stays focused](#)
- ['I See You ICU:' Albertans express gratitude for health-care workers](#)
- [Calgary pastor, brother avoid jail time, fined \\$33K for violating health orders](#)

Meanwhile, **Ontario** marked the lowest daily case count and [positivity rates](#) in months this week and launched its [vaccine verification app](#) and QR codes for businesses ([as did Alberta](#)). Ontario, which already lifted capacity restrictions for [some venues](#), is set to move towards a post-Step 3 strategy, with [details expected](#) next week. It is also considering downgrading its proof of vaccination requirements to [a voluntary program](#).

Vaccine mandates. Surveys and vaccination rates suggest most Canadians are supportive of these measures, but the impact from those who remain hesitant are still notable in different ways. In **B.C.**, requirements for [long-term care staff and visitors](#) are now in effect, but care homes are grappling with staffing shortages with [nearly 2,000 workers](#) in those sectors off the job because of the requirements.

Toronto's University Health Network, Canada's largest transplant centre, has enacted a precedent-setting policy requiring patients be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 in order [to qualify for an organ transplant](#). Other transplant centres in Canada are [also discussing](#) its vaccination policies. Other hospitals in the province have launched mandatory [vaccination policies for visitors](#).

Quebec, which has enacted some of the [toughest vaccine mandates](#) for health-care workers and is facing a [legal challenge](#), is [pushing back its deadline](#) by a month in hopes of mitigating the impact of losing thousands of workers. The province's minister says he would like to see [licences suspended](#) for health-care workers who remain unvaccinated, but the challenges facing the province's tough stance could be a [sign for other provinces](#) too.

- [Most Canadians support health-care workers refusing treatment to threatening, disrespectful unvaccinated patients: Nanos survey](#)
- [Feds make vaccines mandatory for public servants, domestic travelers](#)
- [Conservatives still considering position on federal vaccine policy, MP says](#)

Oct 19, 2021



The latest headlines...

In vaccines. With school already underway and [COVID-19 cases among children rising](#) across the country, a vaccine for this age group can't come soon enough, experts say. Nearly three million kids across the country aged five to 11 years old would be eligible for doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, should Health Canada give the green light.

- [Nova Scotia to offer third dose to some immunocompromised people, travelers](#)
- [U.S. FDA panel endorses lower-dose Moderna COVID shot for booster](#)
- [Moderna has no plans to share its COVID-19 vaccine recipe](#)

In research and data. Two new studies highlight some of the COVID-19 risks for women and children. One study found that those [pregnant with symptomatic COVID-19](#) were more likely to have emergency deliveries and birthing complications than expectant mothers with asymptomatic COVID-19. [Another study](#) found that children are almost as likely as adults to become infected with coronavirus, but they are less likely to have symptoms. The findings highlight the role children may play in transmitting the virus.

- [Experts warn the flu could make a comeback this winter](#)
- [Substance abuse correlated with higher risk of COVID-19 breakthrough infection](#)
- [COVID-19 pandemic led to stark rise in depression, anxiety: study](#)
- [EU starts real-time review of AstraZeneca COVID-19 antibody cocktail](#)
- [Nearly 1,500 Canadians lost vision due to pandemic-related delays in care: report](#)
- [Study suggests correlation between COVID-19 rates and greenspace inequity](#)
- [Visit with a robot: B.C. researchers test out new way to connect in long-term care](#)
- [COVID-19 scientists faced death threats, threats of violence: survey](#)
- [Doomscrolling COVID-19 news can have negative emotional effects: studies](#)

Around the world. Russia's daily tolls of coronavirus infections and deaths [surged to another record](#) on Friday, a quickly mounting figure that has put a severe strain on the country's health care system. Meanwhile, in the Asia-Pacific region, some countries like [Malaysia, Singapore](#), and [Australia](#) are beginning to loosen some of their international travel policies in a shift towards living with COVID-19.

- [U.S. to accept travellers immunized with vaccines approved by WHO, FDA](#)
- [Texas governor bars all COVID-19 vaccine mandates in state](#)
- [Brazilians seek pre-pandemic normalcy as deaths top 600,000](#)

Oct 19, 2021

- [U.K.: 43,000 may have received false negative COVID-19 results](#)
- [U.K.'s slow coronavirus lockdown cost 1000s of lives, report says](#)
- [Many Indians can't prove their loved ones died from COVID-19](#)
- [Italian police arrest far-right party leaders after anti-vaccination riot](#)

How it affects you

Consent laws for kids. COVID-19 vaccines for children under 12 years of age are expected to be reviewed by Health Canada soon, putting the country's medical consent laws for children in the spotlight. We [asked legal experts](#) where the Canadian laws stand on a child's capacity to consent.

At work. You've been working around the clock, work-life and home-life boundaries have blurred and yet you aren't really feeling valued and think you deserve a raise. In today's environment, is it a good idea to ask for a raise? CTV News' Chief Financial Commentator [Patricia Lovett-Reid weighs in](#).

One last thing...

I'm sharing two stories this week -- one of heartbreak, another of joy. In Winnipeg, Joanna Biondi lost her husband Arch Honigman to COVID-19 last month just days after being admitted to the hospital. She wanted to [share her story](#) as a reminder to remain careful in hopes it can help protect others. In Pembroke, Ont., Neil and Delores Videto spent much of the last year and a half apart, separated by a window where Neil would visit daily, sometimes three times a day. The couple recently celebrated 70 years of marriage by [renewing their vows](#) -- together again -- at the long-term care home where Delores lives.

Finally, just a heads up that the newsletter will be moving to Thursdays going forward.

Thank you for reading and have a good weekend,
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](#)

[READ MORE](#) »

Oct 19, 2021

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>
<https://www.unifor.org/campaigns/all-campaigns/covid-19-information-resources>

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>

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>

Oct 19, 2021

BC COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment

Tool: <https://covid19.thrive.health/?fbclid=IwAR1NzQXV3eUgFa5bSimQ2wiRpXVRMZc1LPbqp5fUNIDFIK1Sc7yhcc4aB>

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.

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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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All the information contained is from various sources it is not Local 114 Policy or Local 114 Statements.
