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## PLEASE POST

# COVID – 19 UPDATE 45

You can scan this QR Code and be taken to the full document from your cell phone or laptop.



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](https://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>

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Want to stay connected to what Unifor members are doing across the country? Then you're in the right place! Keep up to date on the latest Unifor news and events across Canada by signing up for our weekly newsletter.

<https://www.unifor.org/node/9508>

Check out Unifor Nationals new website <https://www.unifor.org/>

For specific requests and support, contact [covid@unifor.org](mailto:covid@unifor.org)

Local 114 website <http://www.unifor114.com/>

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

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# Whistler transit negotiations break down

<https://www.unifor.org/news/all-news/whistler-transit-negotiations-break-down>

## Members on Strike in Local 114

Whistler Transit and Squamish Transit (Diversified)



Whistler Transit Members Local 114 on Strike



Squamish Transit Members Local 114 on Strike

More Photos at <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.275133844704342&type=3>

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# FAIRNESS *FOR* TRANSIT WORKERS

## BACKGROUND

Unionized transit operators and mechanics in Whistler, Squamish, and Pemberton have been negotiating a new contract for more than a year. Without a fair offer from management, these workers might be forced to strike.

## ABOUT US

Unifor Local 114 represents more than 80 transit workers across the three municipalities. We are proud to provide transit service in our communities.

## WHAT'S AT STAKE

Like you, we're finding it difficult to make ends meet with the region's high cost of living and the red-hot housing/rental market. We're asking the employer to increase wages and introduce a pension plan to close the gap with transit workers in Metro Vancouver.

To make matters worse, 38% of our workforce isn't eligible for health benefits. We are fighting to fix that and increase the amount of job security for the bus drivers laid off seasonally.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Visit [unifor.org/transit](https://unifor.org/transit) to send a message to BC Transit and your MLA that you support transit operators and mechanics.

Thank you for supporting this region's transit workers!

Take a Day Trip and visit our Picket Lines (7 days a week 7:00 am – 5:00 pm).

### Picket Line Sites:

Squamish Site - 38928 Production Way, Squamish BC

Whistler Site - 8025 Nesters Road, Whistler BC

*Transit workers in Whistler, Squamish, and Pemberton on strike. Unifor Local 114 represents more than 80 transit workers at Whistler Transit who voted to strike in August 2021. Negotiations failed to produce a satisfactory offer from the employer, says Unifor. Wages, a lack of benefits coverage for nearly 40% of the unit, pension, and job security remain sticking points for the union. Strike took effect on Saturday January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022.*

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In order to ensure the health and safety of all staff and members, please ask the following questions to limit the spread of COVID-19. If you answer yes to any of the questions below, please do not come to the event location and contact your local health authority.

1. Are you experiencing any of the following symptoms?

- ☒ Fever of 38°C or higher?
- ☒ Cough?
- ☒ Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath?
- ☒ Severe fatigue or feeling of being generally unwell?
- ☒ Loss of smell or taste?

2. In the last 10 days have you:

- ☒ Tested positive for COVID-19 or been advised by a doctor, health care provider or public health unit that you should currently be isolating or staying home?
- ☒ Tested positive on a rapid antigen/home-based test and not completed a follow up test at an assessment centre?
- ☒ Had close physical contact: with someone you live with who is experiencing any new COVID-19 symptoms and/or waiting for a test result? With someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or who is considered a probable case
- ☒ Received a COVID Alert exposure notification on your cell phone?

3. In the last 14 days have you:

- ☒ Travelled outside of Canada and been told to quarantine (per the federal quarantine requirements?)

If you answer “yes” to any questions, or are feeling ill in any way, do not come to the event location. We ask that you cancel your participation immediately by contacting the Unifor meeting coordinator.

**You must then follow your local public health guidelines, including getting tested for COVID-19.**

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<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus>



# 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 1:30 p.m. EST Monday, Jan. 31, 2022):

- **Canada:** 3,043,594 cases | 217,627 active | 33,808 deaths
- **Globally:** 375,977,659 cases | 5,667,715 deaths

**Hospitalizations [by the numbers](#)** (as of 1:30 p.m. EST Monday, Jan. 31, 2022):

- **Canada:** 9,636 hospitalizations

**Vaccine distribution [by the numbers](#)** (as of 1:30 p.m. EST Monday, Jan. 31, 2022):

- **Total vaccine** distribution as of January 27, 2022: 92,842,704

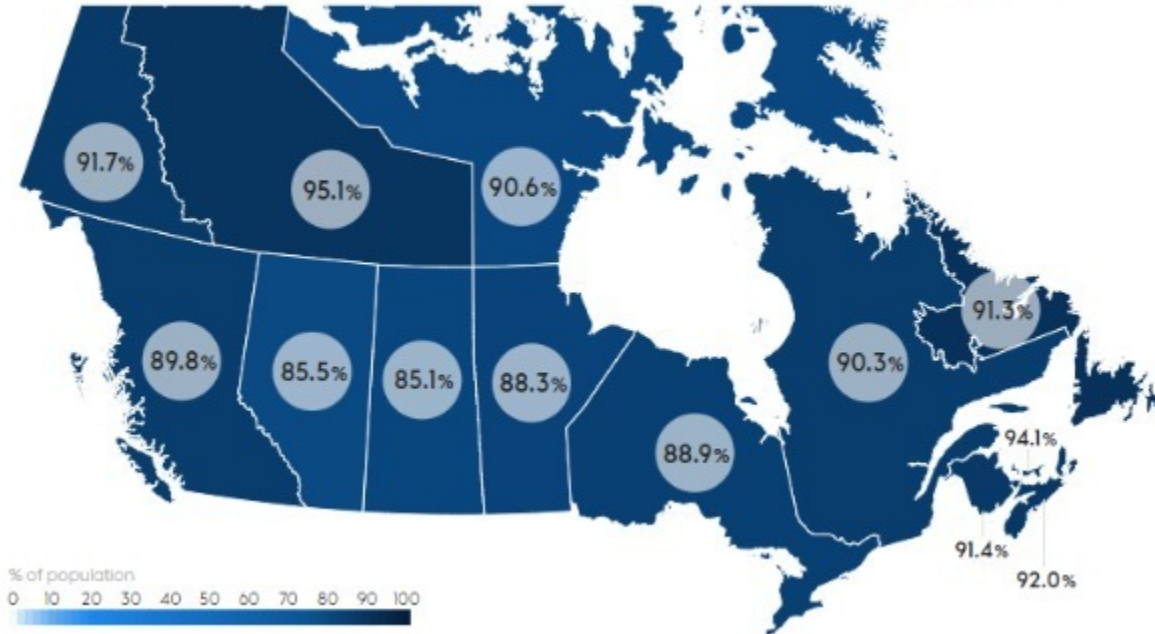
Map shows percentage of *eligible* population (5+) vaccinated with at least one dose; percentages table below are for *total* population.

**Eligible population (5+) in Canada: 87.77% first dose | 82.84% fully vaccinated**



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Percentage of eligible population (5+) vaccinated with at least one dose



**Vaccinations by the numbers** (as of 1:30 p.m. EST Monday, Jan. 31, 2022):

- **World:** 10,076,351,383 doses given | 61% first dose | 51.7% fully vaccinated
- **Canada:** 83.4% have received at least one dose | 78.8% 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

**Prime Minister tests positive for COVID-19.** In a tweet shared Monday morning, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said he tested positive for coronavirus. He said he is feeling fine and will continue to work remotely, following public health protocols. The prime minister had been in isolation over the weekend after one of his children tested positive for COVID-19. A second of his three children is now also positive, he said.

- [Prime Minister Justin Trudeau tests positive for COVID-19](#)
- [PM Trudeau's isolation due to child testing positive for COVID-19](#)

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**Trucker convoy protest enters third day.** Trudeau also [strongly condemned](#) the behavior of some protesters on Parliament Hill as the demonstration against vaccine mandates and other COVID-19 restrictions [spilled over into a third day](#). He pointed to the racist imagery and desecration of monuments seen over the weekend during his press conference Monday. It's still unclear when the protest will end. Despite limited access to Parliament Hill, the House resumed sitting through a hybrid format. Read more about the protest here:

- ['Freedom convoy' rally hits Parliament Hill, demanding end to vaccine mandates](#)
- [Second day of protests seizes Ottawa, police investigating 'desecration' incidents](#)
- [Timeline: Trucker convoy protest in Ottawa](#)

**Canada keeps close eye on new Omicron subvariant.** More than 100 cases of the [new Omicron subvariant, BA.2](#), have already been detected in Canada, according to the country's top doctor. During a federal COVID-19 update last week, Dr. Theresa Tam said it is [still too soon](#) to know how the new subvariant will impact Canada during the current wave of COVID-19, but that an increase in the number of BA.2 cases is possible. The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) previously [reported just 51 cases](#) of the new subvariant as of Jan. 26. PHAC continues to advise Canadians to follow guidance from public health officials, which includes vaccination. For more vaccine-related stories, click below:

- [Scientists say COVID-19 booster intake is waning, urge Canadians to book their shots](#)
- [National vaccine committee recommends high-risk teens get a COVID-19 booster shot](#)
- [A look at Canada's vaccine mandates and public health restrictions](#)

**Snapshot across Canada.** Canada's two most populous provinces are beginning to [ease COVID-19 restrictions](#) with related hospitalizations [on the downtrend](#). Public health officials in **Quebec** reported [2,888 people in hospital with COVID-19](#) as of Monday, a slight decrease compared to the day before. For the first time in more than two weeks, **Ontario** recorded [fewer than 3,000](#) COVID-19-related hospitalizations, with 2,983 people in hospital as of Monday. On the other hand, provinces such as **Alberta** and **New Brunswick** are still seeing a [rise in the number of patients](#) hospitalized with COVID-19. For a closer, visual look at how the provinces and territories are doing, check out our interactive [COVID-19 tracking map](#) and [see how we rank](#) against the U.S. Click below for the latest stories on COVID-19 restrictions across Canada:

- [B.C. could lift more COVID restrictions starting Family Day](#)
- [116 long-term care home outbreaks ahead of Alberta loosening worker rules](#)
- [Sask. reducing COVID-19 self-isolation period for unvaccinated residents](#)
- [Current Manitoba public health orders extended for another week](#)
- [Ontario enters first step of reopening plan, lifting a number of restrictions](#)
- [Here are the COVID-19 measures being removed in Quebec on Monday](#)



**[The latest headlines...](#)**

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**In vaccines and COVID-19 therapeutics.** Could it be possible for a single vaccine to offer protection against multiple strains of COVID-19? This is what scientists around the world are hoping to accomplish by developing a [“pan-coronavirus” vaccine](#). With research already underway, the goal is for this vaccine to pave the way for a universal vaccine that not only targets emerging variants of COVID-19, but some common colds and even novel coronaviruses that haven’t been identified yet. Still, these kinds of vaccines are expected to take years to develop. For the latest headlines in vaccines and COVID-19 therapeutics, click below:

- [Moderna receives full U.S. approval for COVID-19 vaccine](#)
- [Boosters increase protection against death from Omicron in over 50s, U.K. study says](#)

**In research and data.** A new study conducted in Switzerland reveals that an antibody “signature” found in the blood of COVID-19 patients can be used to predict the [risk of long-term complications](#) from the virus. After conducting blood tests on 175 COVID-19 patients, researchers were able to identify several key risk-factors for long COVID-19, including the severity and number of initial symptoms, older age as well as a previous history of asthma. For more COVID-19-related research and reports, click below:

- [Patients with disabilities had longer COVID-19 hospital stays: study](#)
- [U.K. scientists develop 'lab-in-a-backpack' to offer fast, affordable COVID-19 testing](#)

**Around the world.** Within the last week, the seven-day average for COVID-19 cases [reported across the globe](#) has been declining. While countries such as Canada, the U.S. and the United Kingdom continue to see their weekly averages drop, others are reporting new rises.

The capital of **China** is on high alert after the discovery of more COVID-19 cases among athletes and personnel arriving for the Beijing Olympic Games. Over the past four days, [119 infections were detected](#), with most athletes and team officials testing positive after arriving at the airport. Several Chinese residents were also [placed on lockdown](#) over the weekend after a dozen cases were discovered in residential communities. The most recent data out of **Russia** shows the country is facing a [record-breaking rise in infections](#), with health officials reporting six-figure tallies of new COVID-19 cases for three days in a row. **Indonesia** is another country facing a surge in new cases driven by the Omicron variant as it braces for a [third wave of COVID-19 infections](#). For a more detailed breakdown of how COVID-19 is spreading across the world, take a look at our [Global Tracker](#). Click below for more international stories related to COVID-19:

- [U.K. PM Boris Johnson says sorry after 'partygate' report released](#)
- [New Zealand PM Jacinda Ardern isolates after virus exposure](#)
- [Austria to ease virus rules after vaccine mandate begins](#)

## Your questions answered

As we continue to receive a number of Omicron-related questions from viewers, we'll take some time each week to answer them. This one comes to us from Anne:

*“All we hear about now is the Omicron variant. Does that mean that Delta has been replaced or disappeared?”*

The latest data from the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) shows that while the Omicron variant now accounts for the majority of positive COVID-19 samples collected by the agency, a small percentage of Delta cases continue to be detected.

“It's really being replaced by Omicron...but Delta is still out there,” Dr. Gerald Evans, chair of Queen's University's infectious diseases division in Kingston, Ont., told CTVNews.ca in a phone interview on Jan. 26.

With Omicron proving to be highly transmissible and quick to replicate, it essentially superseded the variant that dominated before it, Evans said. Delta had done the same to Alpha when it first emerged as well, he said.

[Read the entire story here.](#)



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Do you have a question about the new Omicron COVID-19 variant you'd like us to answer? [Let us know here.](#)

I hope you enjoyed this Monday edition of our newsletter. Keep an eye out for the next one, landing in your inbox on Thursday.

Thank you for reading and have a good week,  
Jennifer Ferreira, CTVNews.ca writer

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



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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>  
<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](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

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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>

BC COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment

Tool: <https://covid19.thrive.health/?fbclid=IwAR1NzQXV3eUgFa5bSimQ2wiRpXVVMZc1LPbqp5fUNIDFIK1Sc7yjhcc4aB>

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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**New Westminster Office 604.524.9457 1.800.841.5911**

**Victoria Office 778.265.9855 1.855.554.6649**

**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)

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