

CLR-INFO

[CLR Members,](#)

Please find the latest updates and reminders on the current situation in the province.

Work Safety

[New protections coming for people working with asbestos](#)



New standards will be introduced under the Workers Compensation Act that will require asbestos abatement contractors be licensed to operate in B.C. and will require workers and employers who perform this work to complete mandatory safety training and certification. Asbestos abatement work includes assessing, removing, repairing, transporting and disposing of materials that may contain asbestos.

Learn More:

Learn more about WorkSafeBC's Asbestos Initiatives Program: <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/health-safety/hazards-exposures/asbestos>

Read the report from government's cross-ministry working group on asbestos: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/121/2018/12/6493-Asbestos-Report-2018-Final.pdf>

Provincial Update

[British Columbians' COVID-19 efforts allow easing of restrictions](#)



British Columbia's provincial health officer is easing COVID-19 restrictions while maintaining key protective measures to support the health and safety of all British Columbians.

While keeping the BC Vaccine Card, indoor masking requirements and COVID-19 safety plans in place, the provincial health officer lifted restrictions on personal gatherings, organized gatherings and events, nightclubs, bars and restaurants, exercise and fitness, and adult sports tournaments on Wednesday, Feb. 16, 2022, at 11:59 p.m. Capacity limits returned to normal.

Based on hospitalization and critical care rates over the coming days and weeks, the provincial health officer will review the remaining protective measures by March 15, and again by April 12.

[COVID-19 pandemic update](#)



As of Wednesday, Feb. 16, 90.4% (4,507,718) of eligible people five and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 85.4% (4,256,399) have received their second dose.

In addition, 93.1% (4,316,886) of eligible people 12 and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, 90.5% (4,195,685) received their second dose and 53.3% (2,468,653) have received a third dose.

B.C. is reporting 750 new cases of COVID-19, including three epi-linked cases, for a total of 342,282 cases in the province. There are 762 individuals hospitalized with COVID-19 and 121 are in intensive care.

Learn More:

For the Feb. 15, 2022, presentation, Ensuring balance in easing restrictions, visit: https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/Feb_15_2022_Easing_Restrictions.pdf

For information on when to get a COVID-19 test: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing/when-to-get-a-covid-19-test>

For information on COVID-19 treatments, including Paxlovid: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/treatments>

For information on booster doses, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/booster>

[B.C.'s Economic Plan: Building an economy that works for everyone](#)



BC's Economic Plan:

**A plan for today,
a vision for
tomorrow**



The Province is launching a new long-term economic plan – “StrongerBC: A Plan for Today, a Vision for Tomorrow.” The plan puts BC on a path to achieve two important goals – inclusive growth and clean growth – while filling one million jobs over the next decade as outlined in the recent [Labour Market Outlook](#).

As a first step in the plan, the Province is investing \$136.6 million to build a new state-of-the-art Trades and Technology

Complex at the British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT) Burnaby campus. The complex will be a hub for skills training and include four new buildings, benefiting more than 12,000 full- and part-time students per year in more than 20 trades and technology programs. The project will be completed under a Community Benefit Agreement (CBA) and is expected to create 650 jobs.

Along with building a new Trades and Technology Complex at BCIT, key actions under the StrongerBC Economic Plan include training British Columbians to succeed in the jobs of tomorrow, accelerating the timeline to connect all B.C. communities to high-speed internet, creating opportunities for under-represented entrepreneurs, expanding domestic manufacturing capabilities, establishing an ESG Centre of

Excellence to promote Environmental, Social and Governance principles for products and services, and building more resilient B.C. businesses by expanding access to global markets.

Learn more:

Visit the StrongerBC Economic Plan website: <https://strongerbc.gov.bc.ca/plan>

Read the news release: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2022JERI0004-000230>

Watch a recording of the live announcement event: <https://www.youtube.com/user/ProvinceofBC>

To take part in the survey, visit: StrongerBC.gov.bc.ca/engage

Federal Update

Government of Canada lightens border measures as part of transition of the pandemic response



Feb 15, the Government of Canada announced a series of adjustments to the current border measures, representing the beginning of a phased easing of travel restrictions.

As of February 28, 2022, at 12:01 a.m. EST:

The on-arrival testing for fully-vaccinated travellers will be eased. This means that travellers arriving to Canada from any country, who qualify as fully vaccinated, will be randomly selected for arrival testing. Travellers selected will also no

longer be required to quarantine while awaiting their test result.

Travellers will now have the option of using a COVID-19 rapid antigen test result or a molecular test result to meet pre-entry requirements.

The Government of Canada will adjust its Travel Health Notice from a Level 3 to a Level 2. This means that the Government will no longer recommend that Canadians avoid travel for non-essential purposes.

Health Canada authorizes Novavax's Nuvaxovid COVID-19 vaccine



Feb 17, Health Canada authorized Novavax's Nuvaxovid COVID-19 vaccine for the prevention of COVID-19 in adults 18 years of age and older. This is the fifth COVID-19 vaccine authorized in Canada.

Nuvaxovid is a protein-based vaccine that is administered as a two-dose regimen of 5 mcg per dose, 21 days apart.

Based on the clinical trials overall, Nuvaxovid is 90% effective at preventing symptomatic COVID-19 and 100% effective at preventing severe disease. While additional confirmatory data is needed, preliminary and exploratory data shows that Nuvaxovid does produce neutralizing antibodies against the Omicron variant.

Skills Training

[New act supports good trades jobs, economic recovery](#)



New legislation to establish a made-in-B.C. system to support and train apprentices and modernize the Crown agency responsible for trades training has been introduced in the legislature.

The new Skilled Trades BC Act lays the foundation to address labour shortages, and support and recognize the critical work that skilled tradespeople do in British Columbia.

Learn more about skilled trades certification: <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/skilledtrades>

[Increasing apprenticeship training seats, supports for trades workers](#)



The Province has provided \$5 million to the Industry Training Authority (ITA) so that more trades workers can start an apprenticeship or upgrade their skills at recognized post-secondary and trades training providers across B.C. The funding will support apprentices re-entering or completing apprenticeship training in the mechanical, electrical and automotive trades included in skilled trades certification.

To further support tradespeople and employer sponsors in the certification process, the ITA is also hiring an additional five apprenticeship advisors for a total of 25 advisors working throughout the province. Apprenticeship advisors provide guidance to apprentices and employer sponsors on processes and policies relating to apprenticeship, and they help build community knowledge and awareness of B.C.'s apprenticeship system.

Learn more about the ITA: <https://www.itabc.ca/>



Stay safe,

Ken McCormack | President & CEO



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