

Joleen Kaminski

From: CLRInfo
Sent: May 28, 2021 8:12 AM
To: Ken McCormack
Cc: Maria Sushkova
Subject: COVID-19 Update - May 28

Importance: High

[CLR Members,](#)

Please find the latest updates on the COVID-19 situation.

[Joint statement on B.C.'s COVID-19 response, latest updates](#)

Thursday, Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.'s provincial health officer, and Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, issued the following joint statement regarding updates on the COVID-19 response in British Columbia:

"Today, we are reporting 250 new cases, including one epi-linked case, for a total of 142,886 cases in British Columbia. There are 3,580 active cases of COVID-19 in the province, and a further 137,517 people who tested positive have recovered.

"Of the active cases, 296 individuals are currently hospitalized with COVID-19, 97 of whom are in intensive care. The remaining people with COVID-19 are recovering at home in self-isolation.

"2,979,951 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in B.C., 152,010 of which are second doses.

"We are now in Step 1 of the BC's Restart plan and are closely monitoring our progress to ensure we stay on track. As immunization is the foundation of our approach, it's crucial to our success that we all get registered and vaccinated."

Learn More:

BC's Restart plan – to see the May 25, 2021, presentation, visit: <http://news.gov.bc.ca/files/BCRestartPlan.pdf>

The latest vaccine information:

Register for your vaccine now: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/register> or call 1-833-838-2323. For vaccine information, visit the BCCDC dashboard: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data> Or: www.bccdc.ca

Provincial health officer's orders and guidance:

To see the May 20, 2021, presentation, visit: http://news.gov.bc.ca/files/20210520_PHO-Presentation.pdf

Orders: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

Guidance on restrictions: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/restrictions>

The latest updates, guidance and information on COVID-19, and where to get tested:

The latest medical updates, including case counts, prevention, risks and to find a testing centre near you: <http://www.bccdc.ca/>

[B.C. moves to 8-week gap for second Pfizer or Moderna vaccine dose](#)

B.C. public health officials announced Thursday that people will be offered the second dose of a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine about eight weeks after the first dose. This means more than 400,000 British Columbians will be contacted over the next few days about booking a second shot.

At a news conference, Dr. Bonnie Henry urged everyone to ensure they are registered in the province's Get Vaccinated system.

The order of receiving second doses will be based on the same principles as the first dose: those over the age of 70, Indigenous people, and those who are clinically extremely vulnerable will be prioritized.

Because of a shortage of the Moderna vaccine, officials said those who received Moderna as a first dose will receive Pfizer when necessary. For remote communities where Moderna was used, the goal will be to use B.C.'s current Moderna supply for second doses.

[The Province is launching a COVID-19 safety certificate program](#)

The Province is launching a COVID-19 safety certificate program, called BSAFE, for workers in the tourism and hospitality sectors to increase consumer confidence as businesses start to return to more normal operations in accordance with BC's Restart plan.

BSAFE stands for BC Safety Assured For Everyone.

The Province allocated \$640,000 to develop the program and provide the training for workers in the tourism and hospitality sectors. B.C. organizations participating in the training program will receive a decal to make it easy for visitors to identify that staff have taken BSAFE training.

The Province worked with go2HR to develop and deliver the BSAFE program. Leaders in the tourism and hospitality sectors were engaged during the development stage to ensure the program is practical and effective for employees.

Learn More: BSAFE online certification: <https://www.go2hr.ca/training-education/bsafe>.

[Government of Canada extended quarantine measures and travel restrictions](#)

May 21, the Government of Canada extended the temporary travel measures restricting entry into Canada by foreign nationals until June 21, 2021. To continue managing the elevated risk of imported COVID-19 cases into Canada, the Government of Canada has extended the Notice to Airmen (NOTAM) restricting all direct commercial and private passenger flights to Canada from India and Pakistan until June 21, 2021 at 23:59 EDT. The government is also extending the requirement for air passengers who depart India or Pakistan to Canada, via an indirect route, to obtain a COVID-19 pre-departure test from a third country before continuing their journey to Canada.

Canada's approach to border management includes entry and flight restrictions; mandatory pre-arrival, on-arrival, and post-arrival testing requirements; mandatory hotel stopover for air travellers; and mandatory 14-day quarantine for travellers. The Government of Canada is also extending those measures.

[Government of Canada invests in innovative Canadian solutions to help in the fight against COVID-19](#)

May 26, François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, announced the selection of eight companies that will receive a total of \$8 million in funding, under the [Innovative Solutions Canada](#) program, for innovative projects to address challenges related to COVID-19:

- **Braebon Medical Corporation** (Kanata, Ontario) will receive \$2 million in response to the [Low-Cost Sensor System for COVID-19 Patient Monitoring](#) challenge. It will create a low-cost system to continuously measure COVID-19 patients' temperature, oxygen saturation, blood pressure, pulse and respiration rate and transmit this information wirelessly to a base station for patient monitoring.
- **Nicoya Lifesciences Incorporated** (Kitchener, Ontario) and **Deep Biologics Incorporated** (Guelph, Ontario) will each receive up to \$2 million in response to the [Point of Care and Home Diagnostic Kit for COVID-19](#) challenge. They will each create a rapid test kit that uses saliva sampling to diagnose individuals with COVID-19 symptoms in 20 minutes or less.

- **Cole Webber Productions Incorporated** (Red Deer, Alberta) will receive \$1 million in response to the [COVID-19: An Intelligent Digital Clearing House](#) challenge. It will create a smart digital exchange platform to connect researchers and health providers with the appropriate expertise, materials, devices and information to respond to COVID-19.
- **Roswell Downhole Technologies Incorporated** (Calgary, Alberta) will receive up to \$200,000 and **Precision ADM** (Winnipeg, Manitoba) will receive \$300,000 in response to the [COVID-19: Compostable Disposable Surgical Masks and Compostable Disposable Respirators Used in the Canadian Healthcare System](#) challenge. They will propose solutions to manufacture compostable disposable surgical masks and compostable disposable respirators for healthcare workers.
- **GreenMantra Technologies Limited** (Brantford, Ontario) and **Terragon Environmental Technologies Incorporated** (Montréal, Quebec) will each receive \$300,000 in response to the [COVID-19: Recycling Technologies for Disposable \(single-use\) Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) Used in Healthcare Sector](#) challenge. They will propose solutions for efficient and cost-effective recycling of disposable PPE waste.

[Government extends relief for Registered Pension Plans and deferred salary leave plans](#)

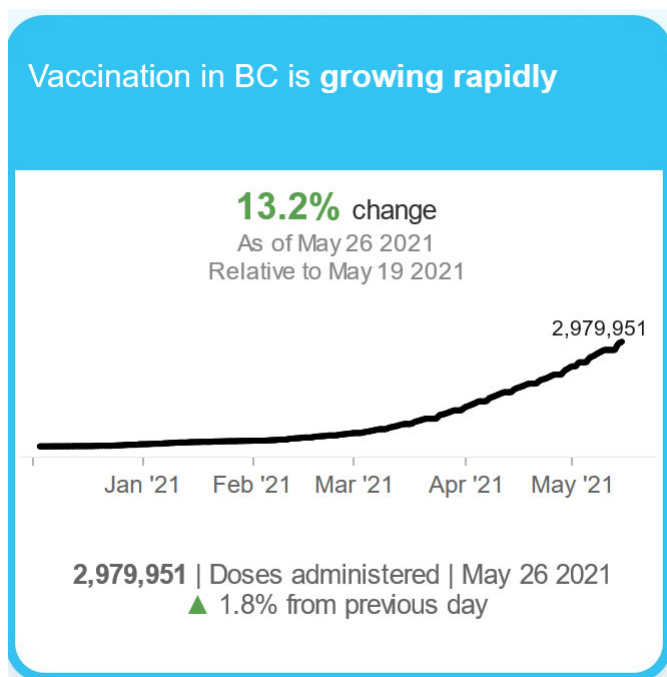
May 20, Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, announced a one-year extension of draft regulations, initially released on July 2, 2020, to help employers who sponsor a registered pension plan (RPP) or deferred salary leave plan (DSLPL) manage and maintain benefits for their employees through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Extended temporary relief would continue to ensure that employees who participate in DSLPLs who postponed their leave of absence because of COVID-19 do not face adverse tax consequences for staying on the job during the pandemic. It would also ensure RPP sponsors and their beneficiaries have the flexibility to administer their plans and support employees through the pandemic-related disruptions.

Learn more:

- [Backgrounder: Relief measures for Registered Pension Plans and Deferred Salary Leave Plans](#)
- [Draft regulations](#)

[Immunization dashboard](#)



Stay safe.

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

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