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From: CLRInfo
Sent: October 8, 2021 8:49 AM
To: Ken McCormack
Cc: Maria Sushkova
Subject: CLR Info - Weekly Update - Oct 8

Importance: High

[CLR Members,](#)

Please find the recent updates on the current situation in the province.

Vaccination News

[Mandatory COVID-19 vaccination requirements for federally regulated transportation employees and travellers](#)

On October 6, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland announced that, as of October 30, the Government of Canada will require employers in the federally regulated air, rail, and marine transportation sectors to establish vaccination policies for their employees. Also effective October 30, travellers departing from Canadian airports, and travellers on VIA Rail and Rocky Mountaineer trains, will be required to be fully vaccinated in order to travel.

For travellers who are in the process of being vaccinated, there will be a short transition period where they will be able to travel if they can show a valid COVID-19 molecular test within 72 hours of travel, but that transition period will end on November 30.

Transport Canada will oversee compliance by means of inspections and enforcement tools—including Administrative Monetary Penalties—using oversight systems in place for each mode.

A pan-Canadian standardized proof of vaccination for international travel was [announced on August 11, 2021](#), and is being developed in partnership with provinces and territories. This document, which will be available to travellers in digital formats, will be easily recognized and trusted. This credential will make it easy and quick for travellers to provide transportation operators and border officials in other countries with their validated COVID-19 vaccination history needed to facilitate travel.

[Proof of vaccination for B.C. public service to increase workplace confidence and to stop spread](#)

The B.C. government is supporting the effort to increase vaccination rates throughout the province by making COVID-19 vaccination a requirement for B.C. public service employees. The BC Public Service Agency, in consultation with the provincial health officer, will require its 30,000 employees to be fully vaccinated by Nov. 22.

Public service employees working in core government or ministries will be required to provide proof of full vaccination using the BC Vaccine Card.

The effective date gives employees who are not yet fully vaccinated the time they need to comply. Details of accommodations that will be made for the few people who are unable to be vaccinated will be released by early November.

[WorkSafeBC vaccination mandate announcement](#)

As of November 1, all WorkSafeBC employees whose role requires them to interact in person with employers, workers, and members of the public — or with other WorkSafeBC employees — will be required to be vaccinated. Full vaccination (both doses) will be required before entering WorkSafeBC offices, public or private workplaces, and workers' homes.

B.C. Hydro to require mandatory vaccinations for thousands of workers and contractors

More than 6,000 B.C. Hydro employees throughout the province will need to be fully vaccinated by Nov. 22, the Crown corporation announced on Thursday. Additionally, the company will require all of its contractors and subcontractors to be fully vaccinated by Jan. 10, 2022.

The order applies to all B.C. Hydro worksites including the Site C dam in northeastern B.C.

Hydro made the announcement Thursday following a similar move by the energy consortium LNG Canada, which is requiring all of its employees to be [fully vaccinated by Nov. 30](#). However, it goes a step further by requiring vaccination for contractors and subcontractors, while LNG Canada says it is simply encouraging affiliated companies to adopt a mandatory vaccination policy for their own employees.

On Tuesday, Dr. Bonnie Henry said she had written to all major industrial employers in the province recommending they implement a mandatory vaccine policy.

B.C. Ferries passengers are not subject to federal vaccination rules, corporation says

B.C. Ferries passengers will not be subject to federal rules mandating that all travellers be fully vaccinated by Oct. 30, a spokesperson says.

The rules announced by the prime minister on Wednesday morning, which apply to air, rail and marine passengers, including cruise-ships, do not extend to the nearly 60,000 daily customers of B.C. Ferries, the company says.

B.C. Ferries has been a private company since 2003. However, the ferry corporation, which is regulated by Transport Canada, says it is seeking clarification on how the vaccine rules will apply to its 5,100 employees.

B.C. Ferries said the recent provincial announcement mandating vaccinations for public service employees would not apply to the company.

"While the recent provincial directive for public sector employees does not apply to B.C. Ferries staff, the federal requirement will apply to B.C. Ferries. We are seeking more details from Transport Canada on how this will all work," a spokesperson said.

B.C. Ferries said it would also be having discussions with the B.C. Ferry & Marine Workers' Union in the coming days. The union represents 80% of the corporation's employees.

Provincial Updates

B.C. COVID-19 pandemic update

As of Thursday, Oct. 7, 88.5% (4,103,158) of eligible people 12 and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 82.1% (3,804,517) received their second dose. In addition, 89.0% (3,849,682) of all eligible adults in B.C. have received their first dose and 82.8% (3,582,130) received their second dose.

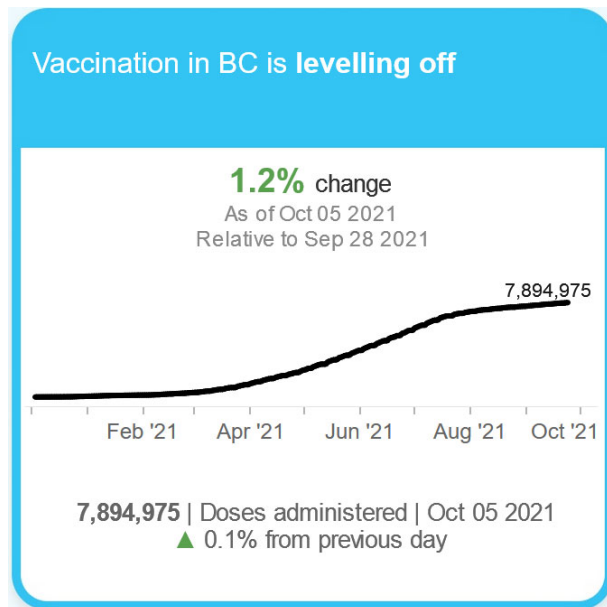
B.C. is reporting 624 new cases of COVID-19, including four epi-linked cases, for a total of 191,748 cases in the province.

There are 5,929 active cases of COVID-19 in the province and 183,406 people who tested positive have recovered. Of the active cases, 373 individuals are in hospital and 132 are in intensive care. The remaining people are recovering at home in self-isolation.

From Sept. 29-Oct. 5, people not fully vaccinated accounted for 70.8% of cases and from Sept. 22-Oct. 5, they accounted for 78.3% of hospitalizations.

Since December 2020, the Province has administered 7,921,070 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines.

[Immunization dashboard](#)



Business & Economy

[Wastewater project delay one of several billion-dollar questions facing Metro Vancouver](#)

The final cost of an already delayed wastewater treatment plant in North Vancouver is almost certain to rise from its \$1 billion figure after Metro Vancouver said the contractor "abandoned" the project.

The new plant was scheduled to be completed in 2020 for \$700 million, but the numbers had already changed to \$1 billion in 2023 before Acciona Wastewater Solutions laid off the majority of its workers at the project site. Metro Vancouver had no further updates on the matter this week and Acciona has not responded to repeated requests for comment.

In 2015, B.C. Hydro selected a partnership between an Acciona subsidiary and Samsung C & T Canada for the main civil works contract, valued at \$1.75 billion, for Site C. The overall cost of the hydroelectric project was initially estimated at \$8.3 billion, described as one of the largest infrastructure projects underway in Canada. That figure has since nearly doubled to \$16 billion.

In February of last year, the B.C. government selected a joint partnership of Acciona and Aecon Group as the main contractor for the \$967.5 million project to replace the Pattullo Bridge connecting Surrey and New Westminster. In September 2020, the province awarded the contract, valued at \$1.728 billion, to a consortium led by Acciona to design, build and partly finance the Broadway Subway in Vancouver.

In an emailed statement, a Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure representative said while the province is carefully monitoring the situation in North Vancouver, it does not affect other projects.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/metro-van-budgets-wastewater-iona-north-vancouver-1.6201226>

<https://vancouver.sun.com/news/accionas-other-b-c-projects>

[BC Government and BC Hydro launch five-year electrification plan, focused on hydro](#)

The Government of British Columbia and BC Hydro have launched the utility’s new five-year electrification plan, which “will make it easier and more affordable for people to efficiently use more of B.C.’s clean electricity in place of fossil fuels to power their homes and buildings, businesses and vehicles.”

An average of 98% of the province’s electricity generation comes from clean or renewable resources (primarily hydroelectric generation). Just under 70% of B.C.’s end-use energy demand is currently met through fossil fuels such as gasoline, diesel and natural gas. Switching from fossil fuels to clean electricity will play a critical role in reducing air pollution and meeting [CleanBC](#) goals.

BC Hydro’s Electrification Plan – A clean future powered by water – proposes new programs and incentives to advance the switch from fossil fuels to clean electricity in homes and buildings, vehicles and fleets, businesses and industry, as well as to attract new energy-intensive industries to British Columbia.

CLR Updates

We are excited to share some photos from our recent AGM and Conference, which took place at JW Marriott Parq Vancouver. Please visit [CLR AGM photo gallery](#) to review this event in pictures.

We were happy to see our Members and Guests who participated in our formal and entertainment activities. We look forward to seeing you all again next year at the Delta Grand Okanagan Resort in Kelowna, BC for another exciting celebration! Mark your calendars for **September 15, 16 & 17, 2022**.#



Stay safe.

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

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