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From: CLRInfo
Sent: January 8, 2021 11:20 AM
To: Ken McCormack
Cc: Paul Strangway; Joleen Kaminski
Subject: COVID 19 Update - January 8

Importance: High

[CLR Members,](#)

Please find the most recent updates on COVID-19 situation.

[COVID-19 Update](#)

On Thursday, Jan. 7th, Dr. Bonnie Henry extended her public health orders limiting social gatherings for another four weeks to Feb. 5. She also announced an additional 761 test-positive cases of the disease and eight more deaths.

The latest case count brings B.C.'s total since the start of the pandemic to 56,015. 372 people are currently hospitalized with COVID-19, 74 of whom are being treated in intensive care units.

Currently, there are 6,349 active cases in the province, and another 8,849 people are being monitored by public health officials. For more updates check <https://bc.ctvnews.ca/>.

According to [BC Gov News](#), the provincial state of emergency is extended through the end of the day on Jan. 19, 2021, to allow staff to take the necessary actions to keep the population safe and manage immediate concerns and COVID-19 outbreaks.

[Major projects in B.C.'s north ordered to scale back work](#)

Dr. Henry has ordered the operators of five major projects in B.C.'s north (Coastal Gas Link, LNG Canada, BC Hydro Site C, Trans Mountain Pipeline, Rio Tinto Kemano) to stand down thousands of workers, allowing only baseline workforces to remain in place.

"There has been a rapid increase in the number of persons infected with COVID-19 associated with large scale industrial projects employing high numbers of workers which are located with the Northern Health Authority region," Henry wrote in the order.

Under Henry's order, the Coastal GasLink pipeline and Site C projects are allowed to have 400 workers each. LNG Canada can have 450 workers, the Rio Tinto project can have 160 and Trans Mountain Pipeline can have 50 workers.

[COVID-19 Vaccination](#)

Two separate groups of B.C. doctors and nurses (Doctors of B.C.'s section of emergency medicine and more than 100 nurses from across B.C) are calling for the province to reverse course on a decision to delay second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

On Dec. 24, Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry revealed that B.C. will delay second doses of COVID-19 vaccines to up to 35 days after the first shot.

A spokesperson for the Doctors of B.C. said representatives are meeting with government officials, including Henry, to discuss the doctors' concerns about vaccine rollout.

Researchers have found the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to be [just 52 per cent effective](#) after one dose; however, Public Health England argues [its review of the data](#) suggests efficacy rises to about 89 per cent by 15 days after the first shot. The Moderna shot is estimated to be [80.2 per cent effective](#) after a single dose.

As of today, 41,064 doses of vaccine were administered in B.C., which makes the vaccination rate for the province 809.7 per 100,000.

[National Update](#)

This week, more than 124,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine were delivered to 68 sites across the country, and over the rest of January Canada will receive 208,000 Pfizer doses per week. In addition, 171,000 Moderna doses will be delivered by the end of next week.

However, the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths are climbing following the holiday season, despite varying degrees of lockdowns across the country.

There are currently 86,939 active cases across Canada, as of today, with a total number of 635,134 confirmed COVID-19 infections since the start of the pandemic. The total number of 538,267 people have recovered. Total of 16,579 people have died.

Canada's border with the U.S. will remain closed to non-essential travel until at least January 21, as a continuous effort to contain the spread of the virus. The Canada-U.S. border has been closed to all non-essential traffic since March 21st, with the government on both sides renewing the closure on a monthly basis.

[WorkSafeBC COVID-19 Updates](#)

[Visit here](#) to review the updates and available resources on: public health orders, mental health effects of COVID-19 in the workplace: guides for workers and employers, inspections and consultations during the COVID-19 pandemic, reviewing and updating your COVID-19 safety plan, as well as industry specific resources.

Stay safe.

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

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