

## Joleen Kaminski

---

**From:** CLRInfo  
**Sent:** January 15, 2021 10:44 AM  
**To:** Ken McCormack  
**Cc:** Paul Strangway; Joleen Kaminski  
**Subject:** COVID 19 Update - January 15

**Importance:** High

### [CLR Members,](#)

Please find our fresh updates on COVID-19 situation.

### [COVID-19 Update](#)

B.C. health officials reported 536 new cases of COVID-19 on Thursday and seven additional deaths. Of the new cases, 253 were in the Fraser Health region, 102 were in the Vancouver Coastal Health region, 115 were in the Interior Health region, 21 were in the Vancouver Island health region and 45 were in the Northern Health region.

Thursday's announcement lowered the seven-day average for new cases in the province to 517. The number of active cases in the province also dropped to 4,624. It was the lowest it's been since Nov. 8, and fewer than half of the 10,039 active cases at their peak on Dec. 14.

### [COVID-19 Vaccination: Immunization team expanded in B.C. to ensure smooth rollout of COVID-19 vaccine](#)

B.C. health officials announced they've added a senior official to the province's immunization response team to help with the program implementation.

Dr. Penny Ballem will be the executive lead and work with the health minister and other officials to ensure the province is ready for community immunization when the vaccine supply is more readily available in April.

So far, 63,430 people have received a COVID-19 vaccine in B.C.

The federal government has released its allocation forecast until the end of February for both the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines, showing B.C. will receive an estimated 433,875 in shots by then.

By the end of March, B.C. expects to receive 792,000 vaccinations in total — and approximately 243,000 people receive two doses.

### [B.C. seeking legal advice on interprovincial travel ban](#)

Premier John Horgan says he's seeking legal advice to see if B.C. can stop Canadians from travelling to the province for non-essential reasons, as a measure to contain the spread of COVID-19.

Horgan said he'd had conversations with other premiers about reducing non-essential travel, however, Canada's Constitution allows free travel within the country.

This issue has been discussed both in B.C. and elsewhere for months, and Horgan said it's time to find out whether provincial governments can act on it.

### [Canada's deliveries of Pfizer vaccine hit by temporary delay](#)

Canada's supply of the Pfizer coronavirus vaccine has been hit by a temporary delay, Procurement Minister Anita Anand said on Friday. The company is scaling up its European manufacturing capacity, which will impact the vaccine's

production for a short period. “This expansion work means that Pfizer is temporarily reducing deliveries to all countries receiving vaccine manufactured at its European facility – and that includes Canada,” said Anand. However, this won’t impact Canada’s long-term vaccination timeline.

To date, Canada has received about 380,000 doses of the vaccine and was on track to more than double that number before the end of the month. In February, Canada was also expecting almost two million doses to be delivered. However, those deliveries are no longer guaranteed – though Anand was optimistic that Pfizer will be able to catch up after this delay, given that the delay is happening so Pfizer can boost its manufacturing capacity.

### [B.C. makes changes to simplify, clarify emergency orders](#)

The Province is fine-tuning compliance and enforcement provisions for orders on face coverings, gatherings and events, and food and liquor serving premises. The goal is to provide more clarity and certainty for enforcement officers and violators who are ticketed under the orders. Changes include more clarity around the specific prohibitions found in public health orders for gatherings and events and for food and liquor serving premises; an amended face coverings order, with an additional exemption for persons who need to remove a face covering to communicate with a person who is hearing impaired.

British Columbians are reminded under current public health orders, police and provincial enforcement officers can issue:

- \$2,300 tickets to hosts/organizers who do not comply with the provincial health officer’s (PHO) orders;
- \$230 tickets to patrons/attendees who do not comply with the PHO orders;
- \$230 tickets for contravening the face coverings order; and
- \$230 tickets for abusive or belligerent behaviour and/or for refusing to comply with the direction of enforcement officers.

In addition, courts can impose penalties of up to \$10,000 and/or up to one-year imprisonment for egregious offences.

### [National Update](#)

Number of cases in Canada has reached the total of 688,891 as of Jan 14, among those 593,397 people have recovered. Total count of deaths is 17,538 nation-wide. 14,870,942 Canadians were tested. More data can be found [here](#).

COVID-19 testing, and mandatory 14-day quarantine or isolation required for people flying into Canada, remain in effect, while Canadians are advised to **avoid all non-essential travel outside of Canada** until further notice to limit the spread of COVID-19. To find out more about travel restrictions, exemptions and advice, visit [Government of Canada](#).

### [COVID Employment Impacts in BC - Summary Update](#)

Based on the tracking data by the BC Business Council (BCBC) and Statistics Canada, here is a quick summary of the impacts of COVID on employment in B.C. The results cover the period up to December 2020:

- B.C. gained jobs in November and December
- All other provinces had a reduction in employment. Only Nfld is showing somewhat better employment recovery than B.C. (led by a 12% increase in public sector employment).
- Since last February our province saw only 33,600 jobs reduction (up until December).
- With COVID increasing the number of part time jobs, full time positions are returning again: 24,000 increase in F/T vs 23,800 reduction in P/T in December!
- Most of the job losses overall is concentrated in the greater Vancouver area (Greater Vancouver remains down 3.5% since February while province is down 1.3% overall).
- Public sector is recovering (increase 6.5%), while private sector (down 3.1%) and self-employed (down 3.1%) are still significantly impacted since February.
- Construction industry is considered one of the hardest hit sectors in B.C. in terms of employment. Construction has experienced the biggest job loss of all sectors. Large construction projects are seen as holding the entire sector and the economy overall up.

- Of the G20 countries, Canada leads all other countries in terms of fiscal response to COVID-19, represented by an increase of nearly 20% of total GDP.

Follow [the link](#) to find more data.

**Stay safe.**

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

Construction Labour Relations Association (CLRA) of BC  
97 – Sixth Street, New Westminster, BC V3L 5H8



**O** 604-524-4911

**C** 604-968-4911 | **F** 604-524-3925

**E** [kenm@clra-bc.com](mailto:kenm@clra-bc.com) | **W** [www.clra-bc.com](http://www.clra-bc.com)

#### CONFIDENTIALITY DISCLAIMER

*The information contained in this transmission may contain privileged and confidential information. It is intended for review only by the person(s) named above. Dissemination, distribution or duplication of this communication is strictly prohibited by all recipients unless expressly authorized otherwise. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender by reply email and destroy all copies of the original message. Thank you.*