

Joleen Kaminski

From: CLRInfo
Sent: January 22, 2021 1:10 PM
To: Ken McCormack
Cc: Paul Strangway; Joleen Kaminski
Subject: COVID 19 Update - January 22

Importance: High

[CLR Members,](#)

Please find the latest updates on COVID-19 situation.

[B.C. prioritizing age and vulnerable people over non medical front-line workers in mass COVID-19 immunization plan](#)

The B.C. government will not be giving special priority to the COVID-19 vaccine to a wide range of non medical front-line workers, but will focus the mass immunization plan predominantly on age.

“Age is the most important risk factor,” Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry said Friday.

The largest immunization in the province’s history includes 4.3 million eligible people and is expected to immunize everyone who is eligible before the end of September.

The province continues to vaccinate front line health care workers, long term care staff and long term residences as part of the current vaccination roll out.

The plan is based on the use of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines and does not account for vaccines that have not yet been approved in Canada. The vaccine is not yet available for those 18 years old and younger because the available vaccines have not been tested on children.

The province could adjust the plan if the Johnson & Johnson and the Astra Zeneca vaccine are approved for use. When these vaccines are available the province will lay out a plan for teens and children.

COVID-19 Immunization Plan			
Phase 1 Dec 2020-Feb 2021	Phase 2 Feb-March 2021	Phase 3 April-June 2021	Phase 4 July-Sept 2021
High-risk population		General population	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Residents, staff, and essential visitors to long-term care and assisted livingIndividuals assessed for/awaiting long-term careHospital health care workers who may provide care for COVID-19 patientsRemote and isolated Indigenous communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Seniors aged 80+ who are not yet immunizedIndigenous seniors aged 65+, Elders, and additional communities not yet immunizedHospital staff, community GPs and medical specialists not yet immunizedVulnerable populations in select congregated settingsStaff in community home support and nursing services for seniors	<p>People aged 79 to 60, in five year increments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">79 to 7574 to 7069 to 6564 to 60 <p>• People aged 69 to 16 who are clinically extremely vulnerable</p>	<p>People aged 59 to 18, in five year increments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">59 to 5554 to 5049 to 4544 to 4039 to 3534 to 3029 to 2524 to 18
<p>Once more vaccines are approved/available, people 64 to 18 yrs who are front-line essential workers or work in specific workplaces/industries may be included later in Phase 3.</p>			
<p>The timeline for BC's COVID-19 Immunization Plan may change based on vaccine availability.</p>			COVID-19 IN BC

[British Columbia will not impose restrictions on inter-provincial travel, premier says](#)

Lawyers working for the B.C. government have concluded the province cannot legally restrict non-essential travel. Premier John Horgan had sought legal advice after concerns travel from outside B.C. had contributed to the spread of COVID-19.

“The review of our legal options made it clear we can’t prevent people from travelling to British Columbia. We can impose restrictions on people travelling for non-essential purposes if they are causing harm to the health and safety of British Columbians,” Horgan said.

“Much of current interprovincial travel is work related and therefore cannot be restricted.”

[State of emergency extended to continue B.C.’s COVID-19 response](#)

B.C. has formally extended the provincial state of emergency, allowing health and emergency management officials to continue to use extraordinary powers under the Emergency Program Act (EPA) to support the Province's COVID-19 pandemic response.

The state of emergency is extended through the end of the day on Feb. 2, 2021, to allow staff to take the necessary actions to keep British Columbians safe and manage immediate concerns and COVID-19 outbreaks.

The extension of the provincial state of emergency is based on recommendations from B.C.’s health and emergency management officials. The original declaration was made on March 18, 2020, the day after Dr. Bonnie Henry declared a public health emergency.

On Dec. 16, 2020, the Province announced enhanced enforcement measures to keep British Columbians safe and mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. This included strengthening COVID-19 fine collection measures and asking provincial enforcement officers to support police and increase enforcement by issuing violation tickets during their normal course of duties or when in public places.

[Government of Canada invests in national clinical trials network to address the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

As the pandemic rapidly evolves, the Government of Canada is investing in a nation-wide clinical trials network to better coordinate efforts to ensure that Canadians have access to the latest tests, diagnostic tools, vaccines, and therapeutics. Jan 20, Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health, announced an investment of \$6 million in the Canadian Network of COVID-19 Clinical Trials Networks. This investment will expand existing national and international clinical trial networks to coordinate research on tools that prevent, detect, manage, and treat COVID-19.

[Province stats](#)

As of Thursday, B.C. reported 564 new cases of COVID-19 and 15 additional deaths. It came a year to the day after the province sent out its first joint statement about the novel coronavirus. In a written statement, health officials said hospitalizations fell again to 309, the lowest since Nov. 27. A total of 104,901 people in B.C. have received a vaccine.

[Stay safe.](#)

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