

From: [CLRInfo](#)
To: [Maria Sushkova](#)
Subject: COVID-19 Update - May 21
Date: May 21, 2021 8:36:34 AM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)
[image001.png](#)
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 357 new cases, for a total of 140,953 cases in British Columbia. There are 4,636 active cases of COVID-19 in the province. A further 134,521 people who tested positive have recovered. Of the active cases, 331 individuals are currently hospitalized with COVID-19, 113 of whom are in intensive care. The remaining people are recovering at home in self-isolation.

“2,687,360 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines have been administered to adults 18 and over in B.C., 138,908 of which are second doses.”

In Wednesday's statement, Dr. Henry mentioned: “Getting everyone in our province immunized is our pathway forward through the COVID-19 pandemic. This will ensure we have enough protection and community immunity to allow us to slowly lift public health and travel restrictions.

“For anyone immunized before April 15, prior to our online system launching, our immunization system has your vaccine information, but may not have your contact information. This is why it is important for everyone to register – to simplify notification for your second dose booking when it is your turn.

If you are unsure, call 1 833 838-2323 to make sure you are registered or register online at: <https://gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated>.”

More resources:

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

To view the latest registration numbers by age, visit: http://news.gov.bc.ca/files/5-10-21_vaccine_registration.pdf

Register for your vaccine now: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/register> or call 1 833 838-2323.

[B.C. youth 12+ can register, get vaccinated against COVID-19](#)

More than 300,000 young people between 12 and 17 years old (born in 2009 or earlier) can

register and get vaccinated against COVID-19.

Parents, guardians and trusted adults are also able to register and book for young people, with booking invites sent to those who are older first. Most vaccine appointments for young people age 12 to 17 years will take place at the same immunization clinics used to vaccinate people in other age groups.

Household and group vaccination options are also available to make it easy for households to be immunized at the same time. Multiple young people in a household can attend one booked appointment and be vaccinated together.

Everyone who wants a vaccine must register through the [Get Vaccinated system](#). This includes young people who accompany parents or trusted adults to their parent or trusted adult's vaccine appointments in order to get vaccinated at the same time.

If young people do not have a personal health number, they can register over the phone by calling 1 833 838-2323.

For more information about youth vaccination, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/youthvaccine>.

[WorkSafeBC increasing workplace COVID-19 inspections during May long weekend](#)

The following message is from WorkSafeBC:

WorkSafeBC will be stepping up inspections at workplaces located in potential COVID-19 hotspots over the May long weekend. The purpose of the inspection initiative is to remind businesses they must have measures and controls in place to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 in the workplace.

WorkSafeBC's inspectional focus will primarily be on restaurants, pubs and breweries with outdoor patios. The majority of inspections will take place in the Fraser Health and Vancouver Coastal Health regions.

All employers in B.C. are required to have a COVID-19 safety plan that assesses risks to workers and implements measures to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 in the workplace. The plan must be reviewed and updated as conditions change.

To assist employers, WorkSafeBC has developed the resource: [Reviewing and updating your COVID-19 safety plan: A guide for employers](#), available at [worksafebc.com](https://www.worksafebc.com).

Employers are responsible for the health and safety of their workers, and this includes doing everything reasonably possible to ensure customer compliance with COVID-19 safety protocols and orders, including maintaining physical distance and wearing masks as required.

Key Facts

1. As of May 15, 2021, WorkSafeBC has conducted 27,635 COVID-19-related inspections and 4,939 consultations.
2. A total of 3,199 COVID-19-related orders have been issued for health and safety violations.
3. WorkSafeBC has received 35,194 COVID-19-related enquiries to its Prevention Information Line since the start of the pandemic.

[Travel road checks to increase for May long weekend: B.C. Highway Patrol](#)

On Wednesday, the B.C. RCMP issued a reminder about non-essential travel restrictions, while also stating road checks will be increased this weekend.

“Over the past two weeks, police have established rotating checks at four locations,” said B.C. Highway Patrol Supt. Holly Turton.

According to B.C. Highway Patrol, 1,412 vehicles were checked between May 6-8, with one vehicle voluntarily turning around. Between May 14-16, 2,069 vehicles were checked, with 30 voluntarily turning around.

Police say unless it's for essential purposes, motorists should not be travelling between the three established regions of:

- Vancouver and the Fraser Valley
- Vancouver Island
- Interior and Northern B.C.

They also say road checks will remain at the four established locations:

- Highway 1 in the Boston Bar area
- Highway 3 in the Manning Park area
- Highway 5 in the Old Toll Booth area
- Highway 99 in the Lillooet area

“We would like all travelers to know that we will be increasing the number and duration of the road checks leading up to, and through this long weekend.” Last week, on May 13, police announced that B.C. RCMP Traffic Services was being renamed to the B.C. Highway Patrol.

[Canada-U.S. border closure extended until June 21](#)

The Canada-U.S. land border will remain closed for at least another month in order to curb the spread of COVID-19, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said on Thursday. Trudeau took to Twitter to announce that the closure has been extended until June 21.

“To protect your health and limit the spread of COVID-19, we’re extending the measures currently in place by another 30 days. Non-essential travel between our two countries remains restricted until June 21st,” the prime minister tweeted.

The joint restrictions have been in place since March 2020 and were mutually agreed upon by both countries. The ban has been rolled over several times since.

The U.S. State Department also announced the extension on Twitter, adding that it's working closely with Canada to safely ease restrictions as conditions improve.

[B.C. to announce details of economic recovery plan next week, minister says](#)

The British Columbia government will announce details of a provincial restart plan to support the post-pandemic economy.

Ravi Kahlon, B.C.'s economic recovery minister, told the legislature Thursday a restart announcement is set for Tuesday. B.C. has been under health restrictions for several weeks that closed indoor dining and group fitness activities and limits travel. Kahlon acknowledged the

hardships faced by businesses and B.C. residents, and urged people to register for vaccinations and get immunized.

[Health Canada authorizes more flexible storage conditions for Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine](#)

May 19, Health Canada authorized a submission from Pfizer-BioNTech to allow its COVID-19 vaccine to be stored at regular refrigerated temperatures (2-8°C) at the point of use for up to one month. This change means that there will be more storage options available for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, which will allow for more flexibility in distribution plans.

Health Canada received the application from Pfizer-BioNTech to change the storage conditions of its COVID-19 vaccine on May 10, 2021. After conducting a thorough review of the submission, the Department determined that undiluted COVID-19 vaccine remains stable when stored at standard refrigerated temperatures for 31 days.

The vaccine was first authorized with a recommended storage temperature of between -80°C to -60°C and thawed undiluted vials could be stored in the refrigerator for only up to 5 days. On March 3, 2021, Health Canada authorized a change to enable storage at -25°C to -15°C for up to 2 weeks.

Since the initial authorization of the vaccine, the manufacturer has continued to develop additional, longer-term data on the stability of the product under different conditions. As a result of this research, Pfizer provided additional data to support more flexible storage conditions.

[Government of Canada launches new “Ripple Effect” advertising campaign to encourage COVID-19 vaccination](#)

The Public Health Agency of Canada has launched the second phase of the COVID-19 vaccine advertising campaign, called the "Ripple Effect," to remind Canadians about the collective vaccination effort required to see a reduction in restrictions and public health measures.

The budget for this second phase of the COVID-19 vaccine advertising campaign is \$11 million.

The campaign runs from May 17, 2021 to July 4, 2021. The first phase of the advertising campaign, "COVID-19 Vaccines and You," ran from March 8th, 2021, to May 16th, 2021, to educate and build trust in the COVID-19 vaccines by answering key questions about the vaccines and providing Canadians with the information they need to make informed COVID-19 vaccine choices.

These ads had more than 347 million impressions and resulted in over 3 million visits to Canada.ca/covid-vaccine.

The new “Ripple Effect” ad can be found here: [COVID-19 vaccines: We can all help by getting vaccinated \(canada.ca\)](#).

[Immunization dashboard](#)

Vaccination in BC is growing rapidly

15.6% change
As of May 19 2021
Relative to May 12 2021



2,632,907 | Doses administered | May 19 2021
▲ 2.6% from previous day

Stay safe.

Ken McCormack | President & CEO



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