

## Joleen Kaminski

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**From:** CLRInfo  
**Sent:** August 20, 2021 8:46 AM  
**To:** Ken McCormack  
**Cc:** Maria Sushkova  
**Subject:** COVID-19, Wildfire Situation Update - Aug 20  
**Attachments:** COVID-19\_WalkIns.png; COVID-19\_get vaccinated poster.pdf

**Importance:** High

### [CLR Members,](#)

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

### [Provincial state of emergency extended](#)

The Government of British Columbia has extended the provincial state of emergency through the end of the day on Aug. 31, 2021, to support the ongoing co-ordinated response to the wildfire situation and to ensure public safety.

The Province's decision to extend the provincial state of emergency will support the significant number of people who remain under evacuation orders and alerts and continues to support the potential of even larger-scale evacuations.

Current fire conditions may lead to continued severe fire behaviour and the potential for more evacuations. While extraordinary powers under the Emergency Program Act are not needed at this time, the declaration gives the Province the ability to move quickly, if the need arises.

#### **Quick Facts:**

- The provincial state of emergency supporting B.C.'s wildfire response remains in effect until Sept. 1, 2021, at 12:01 a.m. (Pacific time).
- The provincial government can extend the period of a declaration made by the minister responsible as necessary.

#### **Learn More:**

For information on evacuation orders and alerts, visit Emergency Info BC: <https://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca/>

Keep up to date on the provincial wildfire situation: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status>

### [B.C. wildfires: quick statistics](#)

The wildfire situation is continually evolving, and the information below is current as of 7 p.m. (Pacific time) on Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2021.

For real-time updates on evacuation alerts and orders, visit: <https://twitter.com/EmergencyInfoBC>. For the latest wildfire information, visit: [www.bcwildfire.ca](http://www.bcwildfire.ca)

#### **Fires:**

- Wildfires burning in B.C.: 291
- Since April 1, 2021:
  - 1,529 wildfires
  - 852,386 hectares of area burned
- Active fires by fire centre:
  - Cariboo: 31

- Coastal: 19
- Kamloops: 82
- Northwest: 5
- Prince George: 56
- Southeast: 61

#### Evacuations:

- Evacuation orders: 75 (-5)
- Evacuation alerts: 122 (-1)
- Properties:
  - Number of properties on order: 5,985 (-1,149)
  - Number of properties on alert: 17,870 (-2,434)
- Orders and alerts by Emergency Management BC region:
  - Vancouver Island Central Coast: 0 orders, 0 alerts
  - Northwest: 1 (+1) order, 1 alert
  - Northeast: 1 order, 8 (-1) alerts
  - Central: 67 (-4) orders, 102 alerts
  - Southeast: 1 order, 7 alerts
  - Southwest: 5 (-2) orders, 4 alerts

#### Supports available:

To help people and communities manage and recover from the impacts of wildfires, the Province has assembled a list of the key resources people may need.

- Click on “recovery and supports” at: [www.EmergencyInfoBC.ca](http://www.EmergencyInfoBC.ca)
- To register for Emergency Support Services: <https://ess.gov.bc.ca/> or call toll-free: 1 800 585-9559
- For information and resources for farms/livestock producers, including the livestock relocation program: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/business-market-development/emergency-management>
- For information on BC Hydro bill help for British Columbians who are evacuated:
- [https://app.bchydro.com/accounts-billing/evacuee-help.html?utm\\_source=direct&utm\\_medium=redirect&utm\\_content=evacueehelp](https://app.bchydro.com/accounts-billing/evacuee-help.html?utm_source=direct&utm_medium=redirect&utm_content=evacueehelp)
- For information on how to report a claim related to wildfire damage through ICBC: <https://www.icbc.com/claims/report-view/Pages/Report-a-claim-online.aspx> or by phone (toll-free): 1 800 910-4222.
- If you have health concerns due to smoky air, extreme heat and the stress of being evacuated or on alert, dial 811 to contact HealthLink BC.
- For information on programs to help those impacted by seasonal emergencies and disasters:
  - Individual and family recovery programs: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/emergency-response-and-recovery/recovery-programs#individual>
  - First Nations support: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/emergency-response-and-recovery/recovery-programs#nation>
  - Business and agriculture recovery programs: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/emergency-response-and-recovery/recovery-programs#business>
  - Indirect business support: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/emergency-response-and-recovery/recovery-programs#indirect>

- Resources for community recovery managers:
  - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/emergency-response-and-recovery/recovery-programs#community>
- For information about private home insurance and other private insurance claims related to wildfire: <http://www.IBC.ca/qc/disaster/bcwildfire>
- For up-to-date information on current wildfire activity, burning restrictions, road closures and air quality advisories, call 1 888 3-FOREST (1 888 336-7378) or visit: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status>

## **B.C. COVID-19 pandemic update**

As of Thursday, Aug. 19, 82.9% (3,842,302) of eligible people 12 and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 74% (3,431,103) received their second dose.

In addition, 83.7% (3,619,755) of all eligible adults in B.C. have received their first dose and 75.3% (3,257,934) received their second dose.

B.C. is reporting 689 new cases of COVID-19, for a total of 158,256 cases in the province.

There are 5,982 active cases of COVID-19 in the province and 150,377 people who tested positive have recovered. Of the active cases, 121 individuals are in hospital and 56 are in intensive care. The remaining people are recovering at home in self-isolation.

Since December 2020, the Province has administered 7,280,835 doses of Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccines.

### **Learn More:**

For the Aug. 12, 2021, announcement on mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations for long-term care workers, visit: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/25143>

For new health measures in the Central Okanagan, visit: [https://www.interiorhealth.ca/AboutUs/MediaCentre/NewsReleases/Documents/IB\\_COVID\\_Outbreak\\_6%20August.pdf](https://www.interiorhealth.ca/AboutUs/MediaCentre/NewsReleases/Documents/IB_COVID_Outbreak_6%20August.pdf)

For information on breakthrough cases, visit: [http://news.gov.bc.ca/files/7-27\\_breakthrough\\_cases.pdf](http://news.gov.bc.ca/files/7-27_breakthrough_cases.pdf) or see the BCCDC weekly data summary: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data#summary>

Detailed data is posted daily on the BCCDC dashboard: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data> or: [www.bccdc.ca](http://www.bccdc.ca)

To register to be immunized or to learn about getting your second dose, visit: [www2.gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated.html](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated.html) or <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/dose-2>

To learn about BC's Restart plan, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restart>

For recent modelling, visit: [http://news.gov.bc.ca/files/6-28\\_PHO\\_presentation.pdf](http://news.gov.bc.ca/files/6-28_PHO_presentation.pdf)

For the provincial health officer's orders and guidance, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/current-health-topics/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

For guidance on restrictions, visit: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19-provincial-support/restrictions>

## **Government of Canada to require vaccination of federal workforce and federally regulated transportation sector**

Aug 13, the Government of Canada announced its intent to require vaccination as early as the end of September across the federal public service. In addition, as soon as possible in the fall and no later than the end of October, the Government of Canada will require employees in the federally regulated air, rail, and marine transportation sectors to be vaccinated. The vaccination requirement will also extend to certain travellers. This includes all commercial air

travellers, passengers on interprovincial trains, and passengers on large marine vessels with overnight accommodations, such as cruise ships.

The government will engage with key stakeholders, including bargaining agents and transportation sector operators. Details will be communicated as the work unfolds. The process will include determining how this requirement will be implemented, through confirmation of COVID-19 vaccination and other means of protection, such as testing when necessary.

Further, the Government of Canada expects that Crown corporations and other employers in the federally regulated sector will also require vaccination for their employees. The government will work with these employers to ensure this result.

The Government of Canada is also calling on all organizations beyond the federally regulated sector to put in place their own vaccination strategies, drawing on the advice and guidance available from public health authorities and the [Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety](#).

### **Government of Canada negotiates additional agreement with Moderna for vaccine supply beyond 2021**

Aug 13, Anita Anand, Minister of Public Services and Procurement, announced that Canada has entered into an agreement with Moderna for additional supply of its COVID-19 vaccine for 2022 and 2023, with an option to extend into 2024.

The agreement guarantees access to 40 million doses, with access to up to 65 million more if all options are exercised. The agreement will allow access to new COVID-19 vaccine adaptations based on the evolution of the epidemiological situation in Canada.

The Government of Canada will continue to follow scientific and expert advice to pursue future access to COVID-19 vaccines.

### **Northern Health: Unvaccinated workers drive outbreak at Site C**

Health officials in B.C. announced they have identified a COVID-19 outbreak at the Site C Dam project site mostly driven by unvaccinated workers.

Northern Health declared a COVID-19 outbreak among contracted workforces. Health officials stated that the declaration follows lab-confirmed cases and clusters of COVID-19 among employees across the site operations, and evidence of on-site transmission among workers.

To date, there have been 41 lab-confirmed cases and several active clusters of COVID-19 activity among primarily unvaccinated workers, in association with this outbreak. 32 cases are currently considered active, and more than 110 close contacts of confirmed cases are in self-isolation, in either workforce accommodations or their home communities.

Health officials noted that the outbreak declaration, in addition to measures outlined in the Industrial Camps Order of the Provincial Health Officer, and NH Medical Health Officer recommendations, will support implementation of enhanced infection control measures where there is evidence of ongoing transmission. These may include but are not limited to:

- COVID-19 prevention measures such as wearing masks and physical distancing on the worksites.
- Limiting interaction between the project workforce and local communities by having BC Hydro restore the control measures implemented under previous Industrial Camp PHO orders.
- Increasing focus on ongoing workforce COVID-19 immunizations which include developing plans for requiring workers coming to the dam site to have either a COVID-19 vaccination, a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours, or an approved exemption before returning to work.
- At this time, Medical Health Officers have determined there is no need for closure orders for the overall project, or individual project worksites.

Northern Health stated that it is working with the BC Centre for Disease Control to ensure communication with the health authorities or jurisdictions of affected employees' home communities outside of BC. The outbreak declaration will be in place for at least 28 days.

### [RBC to require all Canadian, U.S. staff to be vaccinated against COVID-19](#)

The Royal Bank of Canada will require all their staff in Canada and the United States to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by the end of October, according to an internal memo to employees.

This makes RBC the first of Canada's major banks and the largest financial institution in the country to introduce a vaccine mandate. The bank, which operates in over 30 other countries around the world, says the mandate may be introduced in places beyond Canada and the U.S. in the near future.

Staff will be asked to confirm their vaccination status by Oct. 31 in order to return to RBC offices and branches. Those who are not yet vaccinated and are "able" to do so will be required to get their shots by the same date, according to the memo.

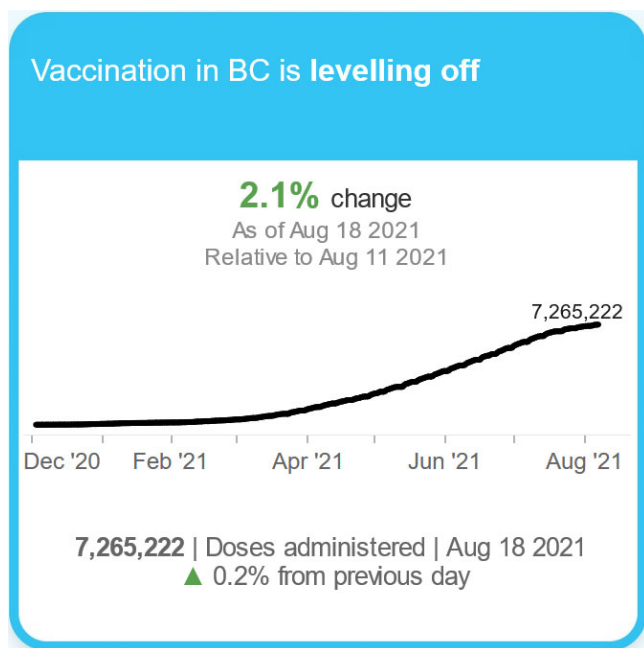
### [COVID-19 Communications Resources](#)

**Vax For BC** is a province-wide event to get everyone vaccinated against COVID-19. No appointments are required. To find a drop-in clinics across the province, visit: [Vax for B.C. - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www.gov.bc.ca/vaxforbc/).

Within Vax For BC initiative, August 25, September 1 and 8 are announced as **Walk-in Wednesdays**, however, in fact walk-in vaccination can be received **every day**.

Attached to this email please find two pieces of COVID-19 communications that can be used by your organization.

### [Immunization dashboard](#)



Stay safe.

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

#  
97 Sixth Street,  
New Westminster, BC V3L 5H8  
📞 604-524-4911

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

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

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