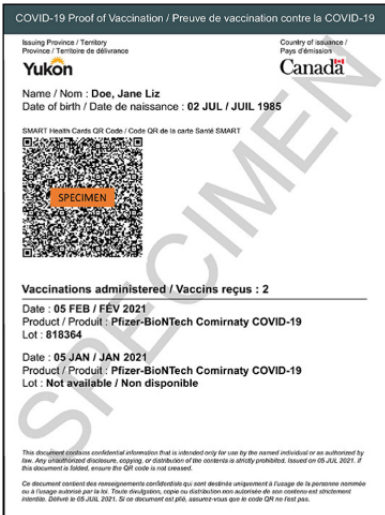


# Joleen Kaminski

**From:** CLRInfo  
**Sent:** October 22, 2021 8:47 AM  
**To:** Ken McCormack  
**Cc:** Maria Sushkova  
**Subject:** CLR Info - Weekly Update - Oct 22

**Importance:** High



## [CLR Members,](#)

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

## **COVID-19 and Vaccination Updates - Federal**

### [Canada's COVID-19 proof of vaccination for travel](#)

Canada is launching a standard federal proof of COVID-19 vaccination system, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced on Thursday.

The Canadian COVID-19 proof of vaccination was designed with a common look that features the Canada wordmark. It will allow other countries and transportation providers, such as airlines and cruise ship operators, to recognize the proof as a trusted Canadian document regardless of the province or territory that issued it.

The proof also complies with the [SMART Health Card](#) standard, which is used and recognized by many top travel destinations for Canadian travellers. The Government of Canada is actively engaging international partners to seek recognition and acceptance of the Canadian COVID-19 proof of vaccination abroad.

The information on the proof of vaccination is limited to

- the holder's full name and date of birth
- a neutral, factual account of the holder's COVID-19 vaccination history, including
  - the number of doses
  - the vaccine type(s), product name(s) and lot number(s)
  - the dates they got their vaccinations
  - a QR code that includes the vaccination history and may include additional information on the COVID-19 vaccines received

The only medical information shown is a person's COVID-19 vaccination history. The proof, including the QR code, does not contain any additional medical or identity information.

### [Canada-U.S. land border to open for fully vaccinated on Nov. 8: official](#)

Starting Nov. 8, fully vaccinated Canadians will be able to cross into the United States by land for leisure trips, the White House says. The new policy applies to international air travellers as well.

Non-essential travellers crossing the U.S. land borders from Canada or Mexico will be asked about their vaccination status, and only those who are fully vaccinated will be allowed through. Proof of vaccination will be required if selected for random screening.

COVID-19 testing will not be required to enter the U.S. by land or sea, provided visitors meet vaccination requirements, officials said. Proof of a negative COVID-19 test is still required to board a flight to the U.S., and proof of vaccination will be mandatory.

It remains unclear whether Canadians with mixed vaccination will be allowed into the U.S., but Canadian health officials say they're relentless in trying to convince their American counterparts. While the Moderna and Pfizer vaccines are approved in both countries, AstraZeneca has not been given the green light for use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

In recent days, the U.S. announced that travellers who received any vaccines approved for emergency use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, as well as the World Health Organization, will be allowed to enter the country. This means Canadians who received AstraZeneca's vaccine — which is approved by the WHO — will be welcomed. But the 3,911,303 Canadians who received mixed doses are still in limbo.

A U.S. FDA panel is meeting Friday to discuss vaccines at large, and the question about mixed dose schedules will reportedly be a talking point. Further guidance on acceptable proof of vaccination, limited exceptions and other details will be provided "well in advance of Nov. 8 to enable preparation for a smooth transition to the new system," the White House said.

### [Federal Government announces targeted COVID-19 support measures to create jobs and support growth](#)

Oct. 21, Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, announced that the government is taking targeted action to create jobs and spur economic growth. The government is proposing the following changes to business support programs:

- Extend the Canada Recovery Hiring Program until May 7, 2022, for eligible employers with current revenue losses above 10% and increase the subsidy rate to 50%. The extension would help businesses continue to hire back workers and to create the additional jobs.
- Deliver targeted support to businesses that are still facing significant pandemic-related challenges. Support would be available through two streams:
  - **Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program**, which would provide support through the wage and rent subsidy programs, to hotels, tour operators, travel agencies, and restaurants, with a subsidy rate of up to 75 per cent.
  - **Hardest-Hit Business Recovery Program**, which would provide support through the wage and rent subsidy programs, would support other businesses that have faced deep losses, with a subsidy rate of up to 50%.
  - Applicants for these programs will use a new "two-key" eligibility system whereby they will need to demonstrate significant revenue losses over the course of 12 months of the pandemic, as well as revenue losses in the current month.
  - Businesses that face temporary new local lockdowns will be eligible for up to the maximum amount of the wage and rent subsidy programs, during the local lockdown, regardless of losses over the course of the pandemic.
  - These programs will be available until May 7, 2022, with the proposed subsidy rates available through to March 13, 2022. From March 13, 2022, to May 7, 2022, the subsidy rates will decrease by half.
- Extend the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit and the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit until May 7, 2022, and increase the maximum duration of benefits by 2 weeks. This would extend the caregiving benefit from 42 to 44 weeks and the sickness benefit from 4 to 6 weeks.
- Establish the **Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit** which would provide \$300 a week in income support to eligible workers should they be unable to work due to a local lockdown anytime between October 24, 2021 and May 7, 2022.

#### Learn more

- [Backgrounder: Targeting COVID-19 Support Measures](#)
- [Backgrounder: The Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit](#)

## [Canada announces accelerated delivery of COVID-19 paediatric vaccine pending regulatory authorization](#)

On October 18, Pfizer submitted an application to Health Canada for regulatory review of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine COMIRNATY for children aged 5-11. The Government of Canada and Pfizer have agreed to an accelerated delivery schedule of this vaccine, pending regulatory authorization. Specifically, Pfizer and BioNTech have shared that deliveries of 2.9 million doses will begin shortly after regulatory authorization so that Canada receives enough doses to administer a first shot for all eligible children.

### **Quick facts**

- In April 2021, the Government of Canada [signed an agreement](#) with Pfizer for future supply of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. The agreement provides flexibility to procure future COVID-19 vaccine formulations from Pfizer, such as those to protect against variants of concern and vaccines developed for children.
- To date, Canada has received a total of more than 74 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine from Pfizer, Moderna and AstraZeneca.
- More than 81% of eligible Canadians 12 years and older are now fully vaccinated, and more than 87% have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
- According to StatsCan data, as of July 1, 2021, there are 2,879,112 children age 5-11 in Canada.

## **Provincial Updates**

### [Province intends to introduce legislation to extend key COVID-19 orders](#)

Due to the ongoing fourth wave of the pandemic, the Province intends to introduce amendments to the COVID-19 Related Measures Act to extend it beyond the repeal date of Dec. 31, 2021.

The act provides statutory authority for various COVID-19 related orders that were introduced to respond to and minimize the effect of the pandemic. This includes orders:

- to allow for remote witnessing of the signing of key legal documents;
- to allow the courts to specify that court proceedings can be conducted remotely; and
- to support orders of the provincial health officer that impose conditions on the number of long-term care facilities staff are permitted to work at to help reduce COVID-19 transmission.

Additionally, the act provides civil liability protection to certain individuals or businesses that are providing an essential service, operating a business or engaged in an activity that benefits the community, as long as they are following the necessary public health orders.

The Province is providing notice of this planned amendment to assist affected organizations and businesses in planning for the possibility that existing orders that apply to their operations will continue beyond Dec. 31, 2021. More details on the amendments will be available when the legislation is introduced in the house.

### [COVID-19 capacity limits lifting as two-dose vaccine requirements begin](#)

On Sunday, Oct. 24, full vaccination for everyone born in 2009 or earlier (12+) and presentation of your BC Vaccine Card will be required to access certain events, services and businesses.

On Monday, Oct. 25, more people will be able to come together at organized gatherings and events in parts of the province where vaccination rates are high. The provincial health officer order restricting capacity limits to 50% for inside organized events and gatherings will be revised to allow 100% capacity in those settings where the BC Vaccine Card is in place and proof of vaccination status is checked.

In addition, the requirement to remain seated at a table in restaurants and pubs will be lifted. Indoor mask requirements remain in effect for all indoor gatherings and events.



Capacity limits remain in effect where regional orders are in place, including Fraser East and parts of Northern and Interior Health regions.

### **[B.C. launches first accredited PPE testing lab in Western Canada](#)**

The Province is further protecting health-care workers, patients, families and frontline workers during COVID-19 with Western Canada's first accredited personal protective equipment (PPE) lab, specializing in testing and validating PPE.

The lab is a pandemic-driven innovation by Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH), with support from the Ministry of Health and the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA).

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, there was an immediate increased demand for PPE around the world and it severely disrupted global supply chains. VCH recognized the need for a local lab that could quickly test and validate the effectiveness of PPE to provide assurance to health-care workers and patients in the province. The scope of the lab has expanded since it opened last year. The PPE testing lab now offers seven tests, including tests for gowns (such as fluid resistance and hydrostatic pressure) and surgical masks (such as flammability and synthetic blood resistance) and is now available to any Canadian organization.

VCH's PPE testing laboratory was completed in June 2020 and accredited in October 2020. Initially, the lab's mandate was to ensure the safety of health-care workers and patients by providing testing for priority pieces of PPE, such as N95 respirators.

VCH's PPE testing laboratory team continues to work closely with PHSA supply chain to ensure the supply of PPE obtained from new local, national and international suppliers meets all Health Canada and WorkSafeBC regulatory requirements as well as certification requirements for the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) and National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

### **[B.C. COVID-19 pandemic update](#)**

As of Thursday, Oct. 21, 2021, 89.4% (4,141,865) of eligible people 12 and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 83.8% (3,883,585) received their second dose.

In addition, 89.8% (3,884,354) of all eligible adults in B.C. have received their first dose and 84.4% (3,652,493) received their second dose. B.C. is reporting 715 new cases of COVID-19, for a total of 200,249 cases in the province.

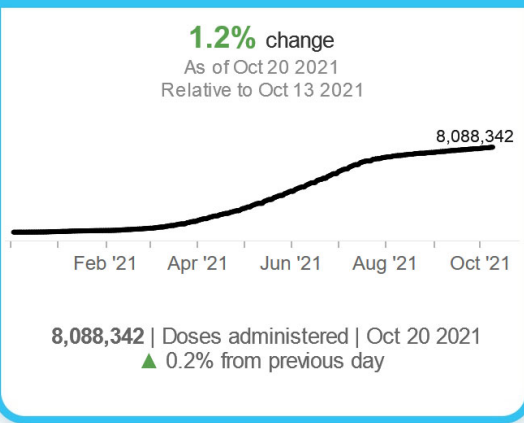
There are 4,965 active cases of COVID-19 in the province and 192,819 people who tested positive have recovered. Of the active cases, 377 individuals are in hospital and 136 are in intensive care. The remaining people are recovering at home in self-isolation.

### **[Immunization dashboard](#)**

## Celebrating small businesses in BC



### Vaccination in BC is levelling off



## Business & Economy

### [Innovation grants help B.C. manufacturers grow, create jobs](#)

Small and medium-sized manufacturers in B.C. can expand, adapt and enhance their operations through the **StrongerBC Accelerating Manufacturing Grants** program.

The program has allocated \$10 million for 43 new projects designed to strengthen innovation and diversification and create new family-supporting jobs in the province's manufacturing sector as it recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Accelerating Manufacturing Grants program provided grants to eligible businesses to help them scale up, develop and commercialize new technologies or products, improve market access and identify operational improvements. PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Canada was selected by the Province through a competitive process to deliver the program.

The announcement coincides with Manufacturing Week in B.C., which is proclaimed each October by government.

Recipients represent a wide range of manufacturing sectors throughout the province, including technology, food processing, shipbuilding, aerospace and forestry.

The Accelerating Manufacturing Grants program provided 75% of project costs to a maximum of \$250,000 for individual business projects or up to \$500,000 for projects by a group of businesses.

#### **Learn More:**

For more information on StrongerBC, visit: <https://strongerbc.gov.bc.ca/>

### [Small Business Week kicks off; B.C. hits pandemic supports milestone](#)

During this year's Small Business Week, Oct. 17-23, the Province recognizes the more than 500,000 small businesses in B.C. that continue to adapt throughout the pandemic.

Throughout the time of the pandemic, the Province has provided financial supports to hard-hit industries and businesses. The Small and Medium Sized Business Recovery and the Circuit Breaker Business Relief Grants have now committed more than half a billion dollars to support B.C. businesses.

To date, more than 90% of successful Small and Medium Sized Businesses Recovery Grant recipients and more than 99% of the successful Circuit Breaker Business Relief Grant recipients have received their one-time payment to help keep staff working, implement safety protocols and adapt or innovate their services.



In addition to these grants, the Province also worked with small businesses over the past year to shift to a more digital-focused online presence. Through the Launch Online Grant program, more than 5,500 businesses in B.C. were able to build their e-commerce capacity and market services online. The grant program, which wrapped up in September 2021, has provided nearly \$40 million to improve online capacity and booking systems to help businesses reach their customers and expand to new markets.

The ongoing support for businesses throughout the pandemic is part of StrongerBC: BC's Economic Recovery Plan.

**Learn More:**

To find out more about the economic supports for businesses, organizations and community groups, visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/economic-recovery/business-supports>

**[Amendments strengthen access to information, protect people's privacy](#)**

British Columbia is taking important steps to strengthen B.C.'s Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA) to deliver better, more inclusive services to people, businesses and public-sector organizations.

With input from thousands of people, businesses, Indigenous communities and public bodies, proposed changes to FOIPPA will help B.C. keep pace with new technology, strengthen privacy protections and improve services for thousands of people who request information each year.

Highlights of the proposed amendments include:

- updating FOIPPA's data-residency provisions so public bodies can use modern tools while continuing to protect personal information;
- enhancing public-sector privacy protections and increasing accountability by implementing mandatory privacy-breach reporting;
- introducing a modest application fee for non-personal freedom of information (FOI) requests; and
- demonstrating the Province's commitment to diversity, inclusion, reconciliation and equity by increasing information sharing with Indigenous Peoples, adding Indigenous cultural protections and removing non-inclusive language.

**Learn More:**

For more information on FOIPPA, including sections of the act in categories about freedom of information, protection of privacy and the powers of the information and privacy commissioner, visit:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content?id=349D4E81633F4E49AEAE121F1CC058DB>

## **WorkSafeBC**

**[2022 premium rates](#)**

WorkSafeBC announces that the average base premium rate for 2022 is 1.55% of employers' assessable payroll, which has been maintained at the same level since 2018.

The *Workers Compensation Act* requires WorkSafeBC to set premium rates annually for employers in order to pay for the workers' compensation system.

Employers are placed in one of 520 classification units with other similar businesses. These classification units are then placed into one of 51 insurance pools we refer to as rate groups.

Employers in each rate group pay the costs of injuries and diseases that occur to the workers within the group, with the intent that each rate group be self-sufficient with regard to compensation costs. This limits cross-subsidization between industries, maintains relatively stable insurance rates, and limits growth of unfunded liabilities in the rate groups.

Each year, costs in some rate groups go up, some go down and others stay the same. In 2022, 60% of employers in B.C. will experience a decrease in their industry base rate, 23% will see their industry base rate increase, and 17% will see no change.

**Examples of industries with rate decreases include:** Forest Fire Fighting, Orchards, Framing or Residential Forming, Helicopter Aerial Work, Electric Utilities, Taxi and Ride-hailing Service, Dump Truck Operations, Sawmills, Gas Utilities, House Construction, and Electrical Work.

**Examples of industries with rate increases include:** Hospitals, Supermarkets, Local Governments, Public Schools, Universities, Libraries, Independent or Private Schools, Short-Term Care, Religious Organizations, Wharf Operations, Law Enforcement, Ambulance Services, Pre-hospital Emergency Health Care, Long-Term Care, Residential Social Service Facilities, and Community Health Support Services.

**Example of industries with little to no change to their rates include:** Ski Hill, Shake or Shingle Mill, Courier, Gas Bar, Restaurants, Pubs, Law Office, Computer Consulting, and Business Consulting.

### **[WorkSafe Bulletin. Top climbing a tower crane: Ensuring safe assembly and dismantling](#)**

Top climbing, a common way of assembling and dismantling a tower crane, is hazardous work that must only be performed by qualified workers.

The importance of tower crane safety was brought to the forefront in July 2021 when a tower crane collapsed while being dismantled at a construction site in Kelowna.

The bulletin notes that failure to follow the manufacturer's instructions may result in a structural failure that puts lives and property at risk. It provides an overview of top climbing, discusses the hazards, employer responsibilities, safe work practices, and legal and regulatory requirements.

For more information and resources, visit [Tower cranes](#).





Stay safe.

Ken McCormack | President & CEO

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