



COVID-19 Regional Update – March 8, 2021

Good afternoon all. Nathan here once more with a regional update and some highlights from some of the Provincial and Federal announcements made this past week.

Johnson & Johnson Vaccine approved by Health Canada

Earlier today (Friday March 5) Health Canada approved Johnson & Johnson's single dose COVID 19 vaccine. This vaccine is widely seen as the easiest to distribute, as it can be stored for long periods of time at regular refrigerator temperatures of 2 C to 8 C. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine joins vaccines from Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca-Oxford and the Serum Institute of India's Covishield in the list of vaccines approved for use in Canada.

NACI approves extending the second dose of COVID-19 vaccines up to 4 months

Following Dr. Henry's announcement of extending the period between doses of COVID-19 vaccines from Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca-Oxford and the Serum Institute of India's Covishield to four months, Canada's National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) has agreed that the maximum interval between the first and second doses of those vaccines should increase to four months in order to boost the number of Canadians being vaccinated. View Dr. Henry's announcement from Tuesday [here](#).

Provincial State of Emergency has been extended through the end of the day on March 16, 2021

The Province of British Columbia 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 March 16, 2021, to allow staff to take the necessary actions to keep British Columbians safe and manage immediate concerns and COVID-19 outbreaks.

Here are some notes from the March 4, 2021 Provincial COVID-19 update:

- 564 new cases of COVID-19 in BC (36 in Interior Health).
- From Sunday Feb 21 to Saturday Feb 27 there have been 0 new cases in the Fernie Health Delivery Area, 4 new cases in the Cranbrook Health Delivery Area, 0 new cases in the Kimberley Health Delivery Area and 0 new cases in the Windermere (Columbia Valley) Health Delivery Area. These numbers are usually updated on Wednesdays on the [BCCDC website](#).
- There have been 4 new COVID-19 deaths in the province with a total of 1,376 COVID-19 deaths in the province since the beginning of the pandemic.
- A total of 82,473 cases since the beginning of the pandemic.
- 4,743 active cases of COVID-19 in BC.
- 248 individuals currently hospitalized in BC with COVID-19 with 64 of those in intensive care. For Health Authority specific stats visit the [BCCDC COVID dashboard](#).
- 76,289 people who tested positive have recovered.



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- 298,851 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in BC; this is spread across all health areas.
- Current Provincial Health Officer Orders regarding social gatherings remains in place. Learn more about these orders [here](#).
- Link to March 4 [Joint Statement](#).

Vaccine Roll-out Info

The BCCDC has a dedicated web page that is being updated regularly with information about the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out in our province, it can be viewed [here](#).

BC COVID-19 Support App

If you haven't already checked out the BC COVID-19 Support App (available for iOS and Android phones), it really is worth a look. It has all the provincial COVID-19 info in one spot, including the daily updates, vaccination info, self-assessment tool, business, and community resources and so much more.

Long-Term Care, Assisted Living & Independent Living Outbreaks updates

The BCCDC is posting weekly reports on outbreak and case information in Long-Term Care, Assisted Living & Independent Living Facilities. These can be viewed [here](#).

For the most accurate and up to date info on the COVID-19 pandemic please visit:

- [BC Centre for Disease Control's COVID-19 Data](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Information](#)
- [BCCDC COVID-19 Dashboard](#)
- [Interior Health School Exposures](#)
- [Provincial Health Officer's orders, notices, and guidance](#)
- [Provincial response to the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

Booking a COVID-19 test:

Online: You can book an appointment online through the COVID-19 Test Booking Form:

<https://interiorhealthcovid.secureform.ca/index.php>

By phone: Call the COVID-19 Test Booking Line at **1-877-740-7747** for assistance with booking your test.

Seek a test if you have two or more of the following symptoms for more than 24 hours, and they are not related to any other pre-existing conditions:

- *Sore throat*
- *Loss of appetite*
- *Extreme fatigue or tiredness*
- *Headache*
- *Body aches (muscles and joints aching)*



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- *Nausea or vomiting*
- *Diarrhea*

If you suspect that you or a loved one may have symptoms of COVID-19, please visit:

- [COVID-19 Self-assessment tool](#)
- [BCCDC testing information](#)

Thanks for reading.

Stay safe and play smart.

Nathan.

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