

COVID-19 Regional Update – April 30, 2021

Lots of news to share today in our weekly COVID-19 update.

1. East Kootenay Numbers From BCCDC:

Local transmission numbers in the East Kootenay continue to be active. Here is the latest information from the BC Centre for Disease Control regarding new cases in our region between **April 18 and 24:**

- Cranbrook Local Health Area: 18
- Kimberley Local Health Area: 7
- Fernie Local Health Area: 13
- Columbia Valley Local Health Area: 4
- **Link to data page and maps:** <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data>

In the past 24 hours, there have been 92 new cases in the Interior Health region.

2. Columbia Valley Whole-Community Vaccine Clinic Appointment Booking Deadline Next Week

The Columbia Valley Whole Community vaccine clinic at the Catholic Church in Invermere will remain open next week May 3-7. The clinic is **for all residents 18 and over (from south of Canal Flats up to Spillimacheen [map here](#)) who have a local postal code.**

Appointments are required and the registration closes next Friday, May 7 (though they will be filling the appointments after that date, you need to book by May 7). There are many open appointments next week, and they really need people to sign up as soon as possible. If you are over 18 and wanting to get a vaccine, please make your appointment as soon as possible, but no later than May 7.

There have been some issues with their system in recognizing postal codes online, so if you are having any issues registering online, I recommend you phone.

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You can register by calling **1-833-838-2323 between 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., Mountain time, seven days a week** or online with your Personal Health Number at <https://www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca/s/>

I do want to give a special shout out to the team delivering the vaccine as they administered approximately 2300 doses in the first week alone (and have been busy this week as well)– which is a huge achievement!

3. Pharmacy Vaccinations Available at 6 Cranbrook Locations for Anyone Over 30

It was announced today that anyone aged 30 and over will be able to get a Covishield/AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine from several additional pharmacies in the Interior. The only East Kootenay location is Cranbrook – in the following pharmacies:

- Pharmasave
- Safeway Pharmacy
- Save On Foods Pharmacy
- Shoppers Drug Mart
- Walmart Pharmacy
- Loblaw Pharmacy - 2100 - 17th Street North

When you call, you may be placed on a waiting list, and then they will call you to confirm an appointment time. People who called today are already booked for shots Tuesday morning, so they are working hard to get people slotted in. You should only book one appointment – either through this pharmacy system or using the provincial system.

To learn more or sign up: <https://www.bcpharmacy.ca/resource-centre/covid-19/vaccination-locations>

4. Provincial Vaccine Program – Bookings Begin for 50+

The Provincial vaccine program is also expanding. People 50 (born 1971 or later) and up can expect to start receiving the email and text notifications to book their vaccination on the following days:

- Friday, April 30: 56 and up (1965 or earlier)
- Sunday, May 2: 54 and up (1967 or earlier)
- Tuesday, May 4: 52 and up (1969 or earlier)

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- Thursday, May 6: 50 and up (1971 or earlier)

A reminder you need to be registered in advance to book and registration is open to anyone in BC 18 and over. For details:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/register>

5. Second Doses – When Can I Get Mine?

Anyone who has already received their first dose of the vaccine will be contacted directly when they are able to book their second dose.

6. Provincial Order – Non-Essential Travel Restrictions

The Province announced a few updates today regarding the Provincial Order / Non-Essential Travel Restrictions and enforcement.

- A dedicated traffic unit has been authorized to set up checkpoints in high-traffic corridors between the three regional zones in the province (Lower Mainland/Fraser Valley, Vancouver Island, Northern/Interior). For example, there may be road checks on the highway between the lower mainland and the Interior (such as the Coquihalla and Hope/Princeton).
- There will not be checkpoints within communities – only along key highway corridors and those locations will have signage posted ahead of the roadblock.
- The primary goal is to deter ALL travelling for non-essential reasons and encourage behaviour that restricts unnecessary transmission of the virus and its variants.

While the travel order puts legal limits only on travel between regional zones, the guidance remains unchanged throughout BC: everyone should continue to stay within their local community – essential travel only – until May 25.

Link to today's news release on enforcement/restrictions:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021PSSG0031-000793>

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7. Provincial Updates:

- 38% of British Columbians have received their first vaccine dose, and the Province is on track to reach 60% by May 25.
- In the past 24 hours, there have been 740 new cases, for a total of 129,482 cases in British Columbia.
- 511 individuals are currently hospitalized with COVID-19, 174 of whom are in intensive care.
- There are 7,886 active cases in the province, with 11,727 people under public health monitoring because of identified exposure to known cases.
- There have been 4 new COVID-19 related deaths, for a total of 1,581 since January 2020.
- 119,785 people who tested positive have recovered.
- The Provincial Current Provincial Health Officer Orders regarding social gatherings remains in place. Learn more about these orders [here](#).
- The Provincial Order Restricting Non-Essential Travel remains in place until 12:01am May 25 (after the May long weekend)
- Link to today's update:
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021HLTH0031-000815>

8. Other Provincial News:

- Amendments to the Employment Standards Act providing workers with up to three hours of paid leave to get each dose of their COVID-19 vaccine are now in effect, retroactive to April 19, 2021.
- The B.C. government is adding more than \$75 million to the Circuit Breaker Business Relief Grant. In addition to being open to restaurants, bars, breweries, wineries, gyms and fitness facilities, the program has now been expanded to include more than 5,300 hotels, motels and other short-term accommodations impacted by the April 23 emergency order to restrict travel between B.C.'s regional zones. Link:
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021JERI0031-000770>
- The Provincial State of Local Emergency has been extended to end of day May 11 amidst the ongoing pandemic.
- The COVID Speak Survey is open until May 9. While last time there was a phone-in option, this time it is only being done online. The



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link is here: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-survey>

9. 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.

Take care of you and yours,
Loree