



## COVID-19 Regional Update – April 8, 2021

Good afternoon all, Nathan here with this week's Regional COVID-19 update.

With the recent spike in cases over the last week in the Columbia Valley and Elk Valley paired with the ongoing daily rises in cases all around us, it is important for us all to remember that we are still in the thick of it as far as this pandemic goes. It is reassuring to see more and more people around us getting their vaccines, but we must continue holding the line for a while longer. I remember a year ago hearing health care professionals and epidemiologists saying that we would be in this for well over a year, and I thought how crazy that was. Well, here we are over a year later. Please make sure to spend a bit of time watching today's update from Dr. Henry and Minister Dix, there was a lot of great information covered. You can watch it [here](#).

I have also included links to some important regional specific news releases (non COVID-19 related) at the bottom of this email.

## Vaccine Booking Schedule

Vaccine call centres are open between 8:00am and 8:00pm MDT. You can book a vaccine appointment for yourself when you are eligible to call, in many cases (not all) your spouse may also be eligible for the vaccine, regardless of their age, so make sure to ask. You can also have a family member or friend call for you. It's easy and safe to book over the phone.

**The Interior Health call centre's number is: 1-877-740-7747**

For the most up-to-date information on the Vaccine roll-out please regularly visit the [Province's COVID-19 Vaccination and Immunization page](#) as the information is constantly evolving.

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**Here are some notes from the Thursday April 8, 2021 Provincial COVID-19 update:**

- 1,293 new cases of COVID-19 in BC (80 in Interior Health).
- From Sunday Mar 28 to Saturday Apr 3 there have been **13 new cases in the Fernie Health Delivery Area**, 2 new cases in the Cranbrook Health Delivery Area, 0 new case in the Kimberley Health Delivery Area and **24 new cases in the Windermere (Columbia Valley) Health Delivery Area**. These numbers are usually updated on Wednesdays on the [BCCDC website](#).
- There have been 2 new COVID-19 deaths in the province with a total of 1,493 COVID-19 deaths in the province since the beginning of the pandemic.
- A total of 108,278 cases since the beginning of the pandemic.
- 9,184 active cases of COVID-19 in BC.

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- 336 individuals currently hospitalized in BC with COVID-19 with 101 of those in intensive care. For Health Authority specific stats visit the [BCCDC COVID dashboard](#).
- 97,462 people who tested positive have recovered.
- 995,001 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](#).
- Watch the provincial update [here](#).

#### *Relief funding coming for hard-hit businesses.*

The BC government will provide more than \$50 million to help the 14,000 restaurants, bars, breweries, wineries, gyms, and fitness centres affected by the March 30, 2021, provincial health orders. The new Circuit Breaker Business Relief Grant will provide affected businesses with up to \$10,000 in one-time funding to help with expenses like rent, insurance, employee wages, maintenance, and utilities. The grant can also help cover unexpected costs that resulted from the restrictions, such as the purchase of perishable goods. Learn more [here](#).

#### *New mental health resources for sectors hit hard by pandemic.*

Employers and employees throughout B.C. who work in the tourism, hospitality and community social services sectors now have access to vital mental health resources with the creation of a digital resource hub. The online hub offers a range of tools to help address common workplace concerns, such as bullying, harassment, COVID-19 exposure, coping with stress and more. Learn more [here](#).

#### *AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD FAQ*

The BCCDC has released a FAQ sheet hoping to address any questions or concerns the public may have regarding the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine. It is available [here](#).

#### *BC COVID-19 Support App*

If you have not 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](#).



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*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)*
- *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 as always for your time.

Stay safe and play smart.

Nathan.

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