

COVID-19 Regional Update – May 20, 2021

Vaccine Registration Open to anyone 12 years of age and over

Vaccine registration is now open to anyone 12 years old and up (full news release [here](#)). If you have not registered yet, now is the time to do it. You can register yourself or someone else, like a parent or grandparent. Everyone 18 and older in BC is eligible to get vaccinated.

Register by Phone: 1-833-838-2323 or Register Online [Here](#)

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.

Second Doses: If you got your first dose in a pharmacy and have never registered using the provincial system, make sure you are registered here: <http://gov.bc.ca/GetVaccinated> You'll get notified when it's time for your second dose. If you got your first dose through the registration process, you will be automatically notified when it is time for your second dose.

Here are some notes from the Thursday May 20, 2021 Provincial COVID-19 update:

- 357 new cases of COVID-19 in BC (33 in Interior Health) in the past 24 hours.
- Cases by Local Health Area. COVID-19 cases for the most recent 7-day period (May 9 to May 15). [The map](#) is updated weekly, on Wednesdays. **Fernie Health Delivery Area = 11, Cranbrook Health Delivery Area = 4, Kimberley Health Delivery Area = 0 and Windermere (Columbia Valley) Health Delivery Area = 1.**
- There have been 3 new COVID-19 deaths in the province with a total of 1,661 COVID-19 deaths in the province since the beginning of the pandemic.
- A total of 140,953 cases since the beginning of the pandemic.
- 4,636 active cases of COVID-19 in BC.
- 331 individuals currently hospitalized in BC with COVID-19 with 113 of those in intensive care. For Health Authority specific stats visit the [BCCDC COVID dashboard](#).
- 134,521 people who tested positive have recovered.
- 2,687,360 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in BC; this is spread across all health areas.
- More than 58% of eligible British Columbians have received at least one dose.
- Travel restrictions for non-essential travel in B.C. are in place until May 25. Learn more about these orders [here](#).
- Current Provincial Health Officer Orders regarding social gatherings remains in place. Learn more about these orders [here](#).
- Watch the provincial update [here](#).



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Pregnant people in B.C. can safely get COVID-19 vaccine.

All pregnant people who are age 16+ are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccines as a priority population through B.C.'s Immunization Plan. Read the full statement [here](#).

School exposures information

As many of you know, there have been a few school exposures in our region over the last little bit, so I wanted to share with you how the school exposure notification works. A "school exposure notification" does not mean all students at the school have been exposed to COVID-19. If you do not receive a phone call or letter from Interior Health (IH), your child should continue to attend school. It is imperative that you monitor your child for COVID-19 symptoms daily. If a student or teacher receives a confirmed positive COVID-19 test result, IH will start contact tracing to determine how the person was infected and who they were in close contact with. Then IH will identify and notify close contacts who may be at an increased risk and advise them to self-isolate and monitor for symptoms for 14 days. Finally, IH will work closely with the school and school district throughout the case and contact tracing process to maintain close communication with the school community.

IH public health determines close contacts of individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 using specific criteria, based on likelihood of transmission.

Small and medium sized business recovery grant

The Small and Medium Sized Business Recovery Grant program provides fully funded grants to businesses to ensure they have the support they need during and beyond COVID-19. Learn more [here](#).

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](#).

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.

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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 for your time.

Stay safe and play smart.

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