

COVID-19 Regional Update – May 6, 2021

Vaccine Registration

Vaccine registration is now open to anyone 18 years old and up. 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.

COVID-19 Vaccine Availability in B.C. Pharmacies

The demand of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine in BC pharmacies has exceeded the supply. Pharmacies ask that you not call in an effort to secure a booking or put yourself on multiple waiting lists. If you are on a waiting list at a pharmacy, you will be called if appointments become available or when a new supply is received. If you haven't yet put yourself on a waitlist at any of the pharmacies in Cranbrook, you can find the links to individual pharmacies [here](#). The Interior pharmacies are listed below the Lower Mainland pharmacies, so you need to scroll down quite far.

BC Pharmacy will be continually updating their site as new information becomes available, you can visit that site [here](#).

Here are some notes from the Thursday May 6, 2021 Provincial COVID-19 update:

- 694 new cases of COVID-19 in BC (52 in Interior Health) in the past 24 hours.
- Cases by Local Health Area. COVID-19 cases for the most recent 7-day period (April 25 to May 1). [The map](#) is updated weekly, on Wednesdays. **Fernie Health Delivery Area = 13, Cranbrook Health Delivery Area = 15, Kimberley Health Delivery Area = 9 and Windermere (Columbia Valley) Health Delivery Area = 10.**
- There has been 1 new COVID-19 death in the province with a total of 1,595 COVID-19 deaths in the province since the beginning of the pandemic.
- A total of 133,619 cases since the beginning of the pandemic.
- 6,802 active cases of COVID-19 in BC.
- 457 individuals currently hospitalized in BC with COVID-19 with 154 of those in intensive care. For Health Authority specific stats visit the [BCCDC COVID dashboard](#).
- 125,025 people who tested positive have recovered.
- 1,995,496 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in BC, this is spread across all health areas.

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- 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 or read the provincial update [here](#).

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](#).

Pfizer Biontech vaccine has been approved in children down to 12 years old.

Wednesday, May 5, Health Canada authorized the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in children 12 to 15 years of age. This is the first COVID-19 vaccine authorized in Canada for use in children and marks a significant milestone in Canada's fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. 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

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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 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 of 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.

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-assesment tool](#)
- [BCCDC testing information](#)

Thanks for your time.



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Stay safe and play smart.

Nathan.

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