

COVID-19 Vaccines in BC

Information session for Local Government

Dr. Martin Lavoie, Deputy Provincial Health Officer

April 2021

Presentation Overview

- How COVID-19 vaccines are developed
- COVID-19 vaccines approved for use in Canada
- BC's COVID-19 Immunization Plan
- Expected timelines and estimated doses
- How local governments can support
- Resources and information

How COVID-19 Vaccines are Developed

- Research and resources
- Evidence from overlapping clinical trials helped rapid review and approval
- Additional evidence continues to emerge: change is expected
- Scientists around the world continue to develop different types of COVID-19 vaccines
- Vaccine safety: clinical trials and post-marketing surveillance

COVID-19 Vaccines Approved for use in Canada

Health Canada has approved four vaccine products for use:

Vaccine Name	Type	Dose Schedule
Pfizer (16+)	mRNA	2 doses, up to 4 months apart
Moderna (18+)	mRNA	2 doses, up to 4 months apart
AstraZeneca & COVISHIELD (55+)*	Viral Vector	2 doses, up to 4 months apart
Janssen (18+)	Viral Vector	1 dose

* Recent age change due to safety signal that is currently under investigation

Increasing the Interval to the Second Dose

- Evidence shows the first dose gives a very high level of protection and that protection lasts for many months
- By focusing on administering the first dose, it means we can move everybody up the list and more people will be protected much sooner
- The second dose will be administered once everyone has received their first dose

Developing BC's COVID-19 Immunization Plan

An age-based approach

- The single greatest risk factor for severe illness and death from COVID-19 is increasing **age**
- Risk increases exponentially over 60 years of age
- Frequency of various **medical conditions** are also increasing with age
- Our general approach is mostly based on a **sequence of groups of decreasing age**
- Our approach prioritizes protection for those most vulnerable

BC's COVID-19 Immunization Plan



- Developed with evidence from across the globe and from our pandemic in BC
- Mass clinics planned in 172 communities throughout the province
- Mobile clinics planned for people with mobility restrictions and in some rural and remote areas

Phase 1: Most Vulnerable Population

- Residents and staff of long-term care facilities
- Individuals assessed for and awaiting long-term care
- Residents and staff of assisted living residences
- Essential visitors to long-term care facilities and assisted living residences
- Hospital health care workers who may provide care for COVID-19 patients in settings like Intensive Care Units, emergency departments, paramedics, medical units and surgical units
- Remote and isolated Indigenous communities

Phase 2: High Risk Population

- **Timeline: February to April 2021**
- Seniors born in 1941 or earlier not immunized in Phase 1
- Indigenous (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) peoples born in 1956 or earlier, Elders and additional Indigenous communities not immunized in Phase 1
- Hospital staff, community general practitioners and medical specialists not immunized in Phase 1
- Vulnerable populations living and working in select congregated settings
- Staff in community home support and nursing services

Phases 3 and 4: General Population

- **Phase 3 Timeline:** April to May 2021
 - People aged 79 to 60, in five-year decrements
 - Clinically extremely vulnerable people aged 16+
- **Phase 4 Timeline:** May to June 2021
 - People aged 59 to 18, in five-year decrements

Additional Stream: Priority Front Line Workers

- First responders (police, firefighters, emergency transport)
- K to 12 educational staff
- Childcare staff
- Grocery store workers
- Postal workers
- Bylaw and quarantine officers
- Manufacturing workers
- Wholesale/warehousing employees
- Staff living in congregate housing at places like ski hills
- Correctional facilities staff
- Cross-border transport staff
- Sectors or settings prioritized due to outbreak response

Expected Timelines and Estimated Doses

- Everyone **eligible** will be offered their first dose **by end of June**
- **In Q1, BC had access to 1.05M doses. In Q2, we expect 4.3M doses, and in Q3, 6.6M doses.**
- At this time, all COVID-19 restrictions and precautions have to remain in place, even after you get immunized.
- Lifting restrictions will be based on a number of factors: vaccine uptake, level of community spread, impact of the variants, etc.

How Local Governments Can Support

- Regional health authorities will rely on local governments to provide space, information, and communication support, as needed.
- Leverage uniqueness of each local government to support vaccine uptake, including by own staff
- Connect with your local health authority to learn how you can help

Resources and Information

- [BC's COVID-19 Immunization Plan](#)
- [Province-Wide Restrictions](#)
- [PHO Orders](#)
- [BC Centre for Disease Control](#) (information, data, exposures)
- [Regional health authority websites](#)
- 8-1-1 (HealthLinkBC)
- 1-888-COVID19 for non-medical COVID-19 questions
- [Government of Canada](#)



Discussion