

## For DBH Review/Input: OpEd for 2nd dose rationale

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From: Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX <Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Nicola Lambrechts <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>  
Attachments: OpEd Dr. Henry\_Vaccine 2nd Doses\_Jan 11 2021 v4 ky nl.docx

Good evening, Dr. Henry – a draft OpEd re the 35-day 2<sup>nd</sup> dose strategy for your review, with Nicola edits reflected,  
s.13

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**From:** Nicola Lambrechts  
**Sent:** January 11, 2021 5:00 PM  
**To:** Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX  
**Subject:** Re: For Nicola Review/Input: OpEd for 2nd dose rationale

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Here's the op-ed with my suggested edits. s.13  
s.13

Thanks,  
N.

On Jan 11, 2021, at 2:26 PM, Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX <[Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

s.13

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Nicola Lambrechts  
NLK Strategies  
604.970.9113  
[nicola@nlkstrategies.ca](mailto:nicola@nlkstrategies.ca)

[www.nlkstrategies.ca](http://www.nlkstrategies.ca)

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## OPINION-EDITORIAL

s.13

Dr. Bonnie Henry  
Provincial Health Officer  
January X, 2021  
(395 words)

“The COVID-19 pandemic has been incredibly difficult for all of us, and each day I am grateful for the sacrifices people have made, and continue to make every day, to keep their friends, family and neighbours safe. We are all eager to put the pandemic behind us, and the approval of two safe and effective vaccines for use in Canada gives us light at the end of the tunnel.

Right now, in B.C. and globally, access to the COVID-19 vaccine is limited, which means we need to focus our efforts on keeping our most vulnerable safe. Our Elders, seniors and those who care for them, our frontline healthcare workers, as well as remote and at-risk Indigenous communities, have been hardest hit, and that is where our focus will remain through the first months of immunization.

As we get through the first months of the year and more vaccine becomes available, this will be increasingly expanded to include other groups. A vaccine will be available to everyone who is able and wants to get one.

To date, we have provided the first dose of the vaccines to more than 60,000 people in British Columbia. Each vaccine dose reduces the likelihood of transmission and increases the protections for that our health care system, schools and workplaces.

Both the Pfizer-BioTech and Moderna vaccines require a second dose to maximize the effectiveness and we’ve set that at 35 days. This slightly longer time between doses allows us to protect more people, sooner, and as data shows, helps to reduce hospitalizations and deaths. This is especially important to at-risk populations.

Waiting between doses is important and the Pfizer-BioTech and Moderna manufacturers have a recommended dose interval of a minimum of 21 to 28 days to allow the body to develop antibodies. If you give the second dose too soon, it doesn't have that boosting affect that you want it to have.

For both approved vaccines, this dosing period is within the approved range and has been endorsed by Canada’s National Advisory Committee for Immunization as well as by immunization experts at the World Health Organization.

For every person who receives a vaccine, our entire province is that much safer. We still have a way to go, but that light is shining brighter and soon we will be able to put COVID-19 behind us.”

Contact:

Ministry of Health Communications  
250 952-1887 (media line)

## Updated: OpEd for DBH review and input

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From: Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX <Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Nicola Lambrechts <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>  
Attachments: OpEd Dr. Henry\_Vaccine 2nd Doses\_Jan 11 2021 v5 ky nl.docx

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## OPINION-EDITORIAL

s.13

Dr. Bonnie Henry  
Provincial Health Officer  
January X, 2021  
(382 words)

“The COVID-19 pandemic has been incredibly difficult for all of us, and each day I am grateful for the sacrifices people have made, and continue to make every day, to keep their friends, family and neighbours safe. We are all eager to put the pandemic behind us, and the approval of two safe and effective vaccines for use in Canada gives us light at the end of the tunnel.

Right now, in B.C. and globally, access to the COVID-19 vaccine is limited, which means we need to focus our efforts on keeping our most vulnerable safe. Our Elders, seniors and those who care for them, our frontline healthcare workers, as well as remote and at-risk Indigenous communities, have been hardest hit, and that is where our focus will remain through the first months of immunization.

As we get through the first months of the year and more vaccine becomes available, this will be increasingly expanded to include other groups. A vaccine will be available to everyone who would like one.

To date, we have provided the first dose of the vaccines to more than 62,000 people in British Columbia. Each vaccine dose reduces the likelihood of transmission and increases the protections that our health care system, schools and workplaces need.

Both the Pfizer-BioTech and Moderna vaccines require a second dose to maximize the effectiveness and we’ve set that at 35 days. This slightly longer time between doses allows us to protect more people, sooner, and as data shows, helps to reduce hospitalizations and deaths. This is especially important to at-risk populations.

Waiting between doses is important and the Pfizer-BioTech and Moderna manufacturers have a recommended dose interval of a minimum of 21 to 28 days to allow the body to develop antibodies. If you give the second dose too soon, it doesn't have that boosting affect that you want it to have.

For both approved vaccines, this dosing period is within the approved range and has been endorsed by Canada’s National Advisory Committee for Immunization as well as by immunization experts at the World Health Organization.

For every person who receives a vaccine, our entire province is that much safer. We still have a way to go, but that light is shining brighter and soon we will be able to put COVID-19 behind us.”

Contact:

Ministry of Health Communications  
250 952-1887 (media line)

## FW: Updated: OpEd for DBH review and input

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From: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX </O=BCGOVT/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=4FECC2B488164D889677A67FF299050D-HENRY, BONNIE HLT>  
To: Henry, Lynn  
Attachments: OpEd Dr. Henry\_Vaccine 2nd Doses\_Jan 14 2021 v6.docx

Here is a revised version.

Thanks!

*Dr Bonnie Henry*  
*Provincial Health Officer*  
*Office of the PHO*  
*Ministry of Health*  
*4<sup>th</sup> floor, 1515 Blanshard St*  
*Mailing address: PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT*  
*Victoria, BC*  
*V8W 9P4*  
[Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca)

Phone: s.17; s.19

*I gratefully acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional unceded territory of the Lekwungen Peoples, specifically the Songhees and Esquimalt First Nations. Hay'sxw'qu Si'em*

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**From:** Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** January 14, 2021 10:01 AM  
**To:** Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX  
**Cc:** 'Nicola Lambrechts'; Henry, Lynn  
**Subject:** RE: Updated: OpEd for DBH review and input

How does the attached look?

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**From:** Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <[Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** January 13, 2021 6:23 PM  
**To:** Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX <[Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** 'Nicola Lambrechts' <[nicola@nlkstrategies.ca](mailto:nicola@nlkstrategies.ca)>; Henry, Lynn <[lhenry@penguinrandomhouse.com](mailto:lhenry@penguinrandomhouse.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Updated: OpEd for DBH review and input

s.13

Thanks,  
Bonnie

*Dr Bonnie Henry*  
*Provincial Health Officer*  
*Office of the PHO*  
*Ministry of Health*  
*4<sup>th</sup> floor, 1515 Blanshard St*  
*Mailing address: PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT*

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**From:** Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX <[Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca)>

**Sent:** January 13, 2021 8:48 AM

**To:** Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <[Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca)>

**Cc:** 'Nicola Lambrechts' <[nicola@nlkstrategies.ca](mailto:nicola@nlkstrategies.ca)>

**Subject:** Updated: OpEd for DBH review and input

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## OPINION-EDITORIAL

s.13

Dr. Bonnie Henry  
Provincial Health Officer  
January X, 2021  
(382-504 words)

"The COVID-19 pandemic has been incredibly difficult for all of us, and each day I am grateful for the sacrifices people have made, and continue to make every day, to keep their friends, family and neighbours safe. We are all eager to put the pandemic behind us, and the approval of two safe and effective vaccines for use in Canada gives us light at the end of the tunnel.

Right now, in B.C. and globally, access to the COVID-19 vaccine is limited, which means we need to focus our efforts on keeping our most vulnerable safe. Our Elders, seniors and those who care for them, our frontline healthcare workers, as well as remote and at-risk Indigenous communities, have been hardest hit, and that is where our focus will remain through the first months of immunization.

As we get through the first months of the year and more vaccine becomes available, this will be increasingly expanded to include other groups. A vaccine will be available to everyone who would like one.

To date, we have provided the first dose of the vaccines to more than 62,000 people in British Columbia. Each vaccine dose reduces the likelihood of transmission and increases the protections that our health care system, schools and workplaces need.

Both the Pfizer-BioTech and Moderna vaccines require a second dose to maximize the effectiveness and we've set that at 35 days. We will be able to reach over 150,000 more at-risk people in BC by offering the first dose in these initial weeks of limited vaccine and high-transmission rates~~This slightly longer time between doses allows us to protect more people, sooner, and as data shows, helps to reduce hospitalizations and deaths. This is especially important to at-risk populations.~~

This plan is based on sound science and data. When clinical trials were underway for the vaccines, the timing between the two doses ranged from 19-42 days and the results showed no change in the level of protection for the people who received the vaccine later in that range.

I think that it's also important to note that waiting between doses is also important. This and the Pfizer-BioTech and Moderna manufacturers have a recommended dose interval of a minimum of 21 to 28 days to allow the body to develop the antibodies needed to fight the virus. If you give the second dose too soon, it doesn't have that boosting affect that you want it to have.

For both approved vaccines, this dosing period is within the approved range and has been endorsed by Canada's National Advisory Committee for Immunization as well as by immunization experts at the World Health Organization.

Our pandemic response is continuing to evolve as we learn more about this virus and this is especially true when it comes to our vaccination planning and distribution. Delaying the second dose for one week is a temporary approach that we know will protect as many people as possible from this virus during a time of limited vaccine supply.

For every person who receives a vaccine, our entire province is that much safer. We still have a way to go, but that light is shining brighter and soon we will be able to have COVID-19 behind us.”

Contact:

Ministry of Health Communications  
250 952-1887 (media line)

## RE: Updated: OpEd for DBH review and input

---

From: Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX <Kirsten.Youngs@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Nicola Lambrechts <nicola@nlkstrategies.ca>, Grieve, Chandler GCPE:EX <Chandler.Grieve@gov.bc.ca>  
Attachments: LH EDITS OpEd Dr. Henry\_Vaccine 2nd Doses\_Jan 14 2021 v6 bh ky.docx  
s.13 , but print editors will let me know if it's still doable.  
Clean version attached, and I'll loop in with the MO to see if they have edits.

---

**From:** Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX  
**Sent:** January 17, 2021 1:31 PM  
**To:** Youngs, Kirsten R GCPE:EX ; Grieve, Chandler GCPE:EX  
**Cc:** 'Nicola Lambrechts'  
**Subject:** RE: Updated: OpEd for DBH review and input

I have thought again about the op ed and have attached a revised version here. Now that we have figured out how we are going to manage the Pfizer delay I think we should send this out now.

Thoughts?

Bonnie

*Dr Bonnie Henry  
Provincial Health Officer  
Office of the PHO  
Ministry of Health  
4<sup>th</sup> floor, 1515 Blanshard St  
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Victoria, BC  
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[Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Bonnie.henry@gov.bc.ca)*

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**Cc:** 'Nicola Lambrechts' <[nicola@nlkstrategies.ca](mailto:nicola@nlkstrategies.ca)>; Henry, Lynn <[lhenny@penguinrandomhouse.com](mailto:lhenny@penguinrandomhouse.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Updated: OpEd for DBH review and input

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**Cc:** 'Nicola Lambrechts' <[nicola@nlkstrategies.ca](mailto:nicola@nlkstrategies.ca)>; Henry, Lynn <[lhenny@penguinrandomhouse.com](mailto:lhenny@penguinrandomhouse.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Updated: OpEd for DBH review and input

Thanks,  
Bonnie

*Dr Bonnie Henry  
Provincial Health Officer  
Office of the PHO  
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Mailing address: PO Box 9648, STN PROV GOVT  
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**Cc:** 'Nicola Lambrechts' <[nicola@nlkstrategies.ca](mailto:nicola@nlkstrategies.ca)>  
**Subject:** Updated: OpEd for DBH review and input

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## OP-ED

s.13

Dr. Bonnie Henry  
Provincial Health Officer  
January X, 2021  
(626 words)

"The COVID-19 pandemic has been incredibly difficult for all of us, and each day I am grateful for the sacrifices people have made, and continue to make, to keep their friends, family and neighbours safe. We are all eager to put the pandemic behind us, and the approval of two safe and effective vaccines for use in Canada gives us light at the end of the tunnel.

Right now, in B.C. and globally, access to the COVID-19 vaccine is limited, which means we need to focus our efforts on keeping our most vulnerable safe. Our Elders, seniors and those who care for them, our frontline healthcare workers, as well as remote and at-risk Indigenous communities, have been hardest hit, and that is where our focus will remain through the first months of immunization.

As we get through the first months of the year and more vaccine becomes available, we will increasingly expand our focus to include other groups primarily based on the greatest risk factor for illness and death: age. By next fall we full expect a vaccine will be available to everyone who would like one.

To date, we have provided the first dose of the vaccines to more than 70,000 people in British Columbia. Each vaccine dose reduces the likelihood of severe illness and saves lives, and also increases the protection that our health care system needs.

Both the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines require a second dose to maximize their effectiveness and give longer lasting protection. However, we also know that the protection after even a single dose is over 90%, and that this protection lasts for at least six weeks. In B.C., we have made the decision to provide the second dose starting at day 35 after receipt of dose one. This decision was made after detailed review of the evidence and consultation with experts, as well as an ethical analysis.

By delaying the second dose by seven days in these initial weeks of limited vaccine and high-transmission rates, we will be able to reach over 150,000 more at-risk people in B.C. than we otherwise could.

This plan is based on sound science and data. When clinical trials were underway for the vaccines, the timing between the two doses ranged from 19-42 days, and the results showed no change in the level of protection for the people who received the vaccine later in that range.

I think that it's also important to note that waiting between doses is key. This allows the body to develop the antibodies needed to fight the virus. If you give the second dose too soon, it doesn't have that boosting effect we want and need.

For both approved vaccines, this dosing schedule is within the approved range and has been endorsed by Canada's National Advisory Committee for Immunization as well as by immunization experts at the World Health Organization.

Our pandemic response is continuing to evolve as we learn more about this virus, and that is especially true when it comes to our vaccination planning and distribution. Delaying the second dose for one week is a temporary approach that we know will protect as many people as possible from this virus during a time of limited vaccine supply.

Given what we know about our immune system and what we know right now about these vaccines, I believe we have taken a reasonable and safe approach that provides as much protection as possible to as many people at risk as possible in this period of vaccine supply constraint.

With every person who receives a vaccine, our entire province becomes that much safer. We still have a ways to go, but the light of hope is shining brighter and soon we will all be able to leave COVID-19 behind us.”

Contact:

Ministry of Health Communications  
250 952-1887 (media line)