

From: [Tounsi, Marielle GCPE:EX](#)
To: [Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX](#)
Cc: [GCPE Communications - Health](#); [van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX](#); [MacDonald, Alex HLTH:EX](#); [Brown, Stephen B HLTH:EX](#); [Moulton, Holly HLTH:EX](#); [Yeung, Lucinda IRR:EX](#); [Pham, Thuy HLTH:EX](#); [Szabo, Maria HLTH:EX](#); [GCPE Communications - COVID HLTH](#); [Harris, Megan GCPE:EX](#); [Holoiday, Leah GCPE:EX](#); [Nelson, Tiffany GCPE:EX](#)
Subject: April 8 COVID-19 Media Report
Date: April 8, 2021 11:22:48 PM

Good evening Minister,

Today's media report is below.

Thank you,

Marielle Tounsi

Completed: 28

Eva Uguen - CBC Radio Canada

ISSUE: Expired vaccines administered at Save On

STATUS: Provided Background

- All community vaccine providers including pharmacists are advised to adhere to BCCDC guidelines for immunization (<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/communicable-disease-control-manual/immunization>) which contain details related to the COVID-19 vaccines in Part 4 - Biological products.

When they become aware of an incident such as inadvertent administration of expired vaccine, they contact the local health unit for advice; BCCDC provides advice as required, if the issue is not addressed in the Immunization Manual. In general, those who receive an expired vaccine should be advised, and recommended revaccination. Immunization service providers should ensure that expired products are sequestered in the refrigerator or promptly removed upon expiry and returned to public health/source of vaccines for safe disposal.

Anna Mehler Paperny - Reuters

ISSUE: ICU numbers vaccinations in high risk worksites

STATUS: Provided Background

- Sent additional transcript:

Henry: "As you know, we had been well on our way and had done quite a lot of the people we had identified, both in workplaces and first responders and where we had outbreaks. Unfortunately, with the AstraZeneca suspension, we needed to change that. And, of course, we were hoping that it would be short-lived, but there's still more information that we need to gather about that program.

So we have started to target some of the doses that we are receiving in the age-based program, particularly to areas where there have been outbreaks and to the areas of highest

risk. And we finished, for example, teachers in the Surrey school district, or teacher and staff in schools in Surrey where we know the rates are highest.

So those are being addressed on an outbreak management basis with the local health authority, and it will vary depending on how much vaccine we have. We are in the process of ramping up the worker program again, particularly for, as you say, first responders and those identifiable groups that we know we can get to quickly.

Much of that program was dependent on receiving more of the AstraZeneca vaccine, which just came in this week. Unfortunately, we can't use it as we wanted to, but we also are hearing news that we are going to be receiving Johnson & Johnson in the next few weeks, as well. So we'll be able to ramp it up more quickly once we receive additional vaccines and once we get a better understanding of the safety signal and the advice from both Health Canada and the National Advisory Committee on Immunization.

Which is all to say, right now we are focussing in the local area on outbreaks. And I know that Fraser Health, for example, is working with Surrey Fire to ensure that we have an outbreak response that supports them."

Todd Harmer - CTV Vancouver Island - Victoria;

Mike Hager - Globe and Mail - BC Bureau;

Mick Sweetman - CHLY Radio - Nanaimo;

Mary Brooke - Island Social Trends

ISSUE: PHO briefing slides

STATUS: Provided Background

- sent slides

Douglas Quan - Toronto Star

ISSUE: VoC data

STATUS: Provided Background

- Today, Dr. Henry spoke at length in her PHO briefing about variant data. She also spoke about releasing additional data, particularly data relevant to variants of concern. Further to Dr. Henry's comments, transmission rates are often discussed during monthly modeling briefings and the next will focus on workplace transmission.

I've included her comments from today's briefing below as well as her presentation on VOCs: "We're working through that, at how to best understand it.

"You see, this is one of the challenges we have. We had new tests, different tests that were developed by different labs in different areas of the province that were targeted at different populations, and so it's very hard to put together a complete picture and that's what we've been working on with the BCCDC lab as the lead laboratory, the reference laboratory for this and Dr Mel Krajden is working with his team, with all of the laboratories in BC to understand how we can best use both the screening tests, but the whole genome sequencing, particularly, to help us better understand on a population basis what is actually happening.

"So, we will be presenting that likely next week and we haven't figured out exactly what that will look like yet, but we need to move in that direction so that surveillance tells us more about if there's areas of concern and we have the capacity to investigate those more thoroughly.

"So, stay tuned.

"In the meantime, we will be continuing to provide the basic information by health authority, by the current variants of concern that we have been following."

Laura Dhillon Kane - Canadian Press (BC Bureau)

ISSUE: VoC testing clarification

STATUS: Provided Background

- Dr. Henry spoke on change in variant reporting in briefing

Amy Smart - Canadian Press (BC Bureau)

ISSUE: vaccine distribution

STATUS: Provided Background

- Minister Dix spoke to this during the April 8 COVID-19 update:
Minister Adrian Dix: "As people know, I think, and I say this respect to some of the discussion from the federal government this week, the real issue with vaccines is the amount of vaccine we have. If we could get a million more doses, we have the system in place. We have the capacity in place to deliver that, and to deliver that quickly. The key issue is doses. And there's always, I think, an effort in these things to ascribe blame. The decisions to give up our domestic manufacturing capacity of vaccines were made in the past, and the reality is, those countries that are most ahead in terms of receiving vaccines are those with domestic capacity. The federal government is working extremely hard, given that circumstance, to bring doses to us. And I offer no blame for that. But I would say this, that we are capable and able and are delivering vaccine at a rapid rate here in BC. The only thing constraining that is the amount of vaccine we have. Any time vaccines arrive is a day for all of us to celebrate everywhere in BC."
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Dix: In general, we've had pretty consistent delivery of Pfizer. The amounts that we expected to receive we've received and that has been the workers' vaccine, as is illustrated by the numbers and the amount of Pfizer that we've vaccinated people with.

Moderna, as I have just expressed, is substantially less consistent. The arrival of the Moderna vaccine. Again, we received over the Easter weekend -- I think Easter Sunday or Easter Saturday -- about 72,000 of the doses that we had expected to receive the week of March 22nd. So, that presents some challenges because it's arriving and we're not sure when it's arriving. The doses from Moderna that we're expecting to get from the federal government this week won't be arriving until at least next week. So that presents some challenges.

So, in general, we receive vaccine one week and it's part of the delivery the following week. We tend to get Pfizer on Monday and then it goes out, and then we tend to get Moderna, when it arrives on time, on Friday. The big, large amount of AstraZeneca we got last Friday, I believe, and that will be used and is being distributed to pharmacies around BC.

A significant amount of it goes directly to the site. So it will go, say if it's going to be used in Northern Health to Northern Health, but a lot of it comes into a central hub.

So, basically you get vaccine the one week and it's part of the clinics the following week. So

it's received, distribute, put in people's arms, and then that week, of course, at the same time you're putting it in people's arms.

So, that's generally what happens, but especially with respect to the Pfizer, we've had to move very quickly and sometimes it will be available in a day or two because we've had weeks where we have about a third of a day's supply of Pfizer left and we have to as soon as it arrives get it out to clinics where we booked appointments.

So, that's the planning part of it. The Moderna question has made it more difficult for us, but in general, we have, I would say, an overcapacity of an ability to deliver because we want to deliver right away.

What you're going to see in the coming weeks is a slight lessening in the supply. So just, you know, in the few days, just to put it in context, in the few days prior to some tweets from the federal government and some discussion from federal ministers about vaccine supply, so we received about in the few days before Monday, April 5th, for example, we received 30% of our total amount of vaccine we've received since the beginning of the pandemic. In the few days before that, that's with Pfizer, AstraZeneca and Moderna, about 423,830 doses. We're moving quickly to deliver that to British Columbians and hoping that the next amount of supply comes the following Monday.

So, it's a pretty quick turnaround. It can be a couple of days, but if you're distributing, for example, to remote or rural communities, it obviously takes longer than that to deliver, but I think our folks are performing really efficiently in this process. We've got a lot of capacity out there and I think the user friendly registration system that's been put in place is going to help us in that, as well."

Katie May - Winnipeg Free Press

ISSUE: vaccine distribution

STATUS: Provided Background

- Vaccines were deployed to remote Indigenous communities through a combination of mobile clinics and pop-up clinics, and were delivered by public health, First Nations Health Authority, and local health care staff. In addition to the age-based program, B.C. continues to immunize people in some high-risk workplaces, but the parallel worker focus program remains on pause right now in BC as public health are continuing to get more information about the AstraZeneca and COVISHIELD vaccines. The vaccine delivery method for frontline workers is based on factors including size and location of workplace or work site. Some workers may get their vaccine by visiting a clinic offsite, while others may see mobile clinics bring vaccines directly to worksites and workplaces.

More information on B.C.'s vaccine rollout can be found here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/plan>

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/a6f23959a8b14bfa989e3cda29297ded>

Katie DeRosa - Postmedia Network Inc.

ISSUE: DPB INTERVIEW REQ - vaccine logistics process

STATUS: Provided Background

- Minister Dix spoke on this in PHO briefing

Michelle Eliot - CBC - Vancouver

ISSUE: INTERVIEW REQ - restrictions

STATUS: Unavailable for Interview

- unavailable for interview

Kenneth Wong - Langara College - journalism program

ISSUE: mink farm req

STATUS: Referred to Third Party

- Ag to respond

Ariana Cha - Washington Post

ISSUE: pho briefing

STATUS: Provided Background

- sent advisory

Monika Gul - News 1130

ISSUE: no show apts and masks with graphene

STATUS: Provided Background

- In B.C., the demand for the vaccine is great as are the appointments to be immunized. At this time, every effort is made to meet that demand. If there are any remaining doses, then medical health officers from each health authority have been instructed to give the vaccine to people in prioritized groups or eligible age groups.

It would be speculative to assume why an individual did not attend their scheduled vaccination, unless they called in directly.

In B.C., public health is making every effort to avoid vaccine wastage. B.C. tracks vaccine wastage for COVID-19 vaccine and all other publicly funded vaccines. If people do not arrive for their appointment, there are processes in place to ensure vaccine is not wasted. Rather than discard doses, the vaccine will be offered to others in the vicinity, with priority given to those who are part of any group prioritized for early vaccination.

We have not purchased any of the graphene masks.

Sophie Chevance - CBC Radio Canada

ISSUE: VoC data

STATUS: Provided Background

- referred to PHO briefing

Brooke Taylor - CTV - National (Toronto)

ISSUE: CeV for trans people

STATUS: Provided Background

- Everyone in B.C. is important, and everyone who the vaccine is recommended for will have access to it. We recognize that the pandemic has presented challenges for anyone taking

medications that may suppress their immune system.

At every stage of B.C.'s immunization plan, groups identified as most at risk of contracting or at highest-risk from COVID-19 are prioritized for early immunization. This approach is based on scientific evidence and expert advice and guidelines from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization and developed by B.C.'s Immunization Committee and public health leadership committee.

Expert physicians and providers in cancer care, kidney diseases and other immunocompromised conditions worked with public health and international COVID-19 data to define B.C.'s clinically extremely vulnerable list. Pediatricians were included to review relevant information for youth aged 16 to 19. The work was supported by an ethics expert to make sure the list is as fair and equitable as possible.

More information on vaccines for people who are clinically extremely vulnerable can be found here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/cev>

We recognize that not all medical conditions are included on the clinically extremely vulnerable list. The list identifies conditions that are the strongest drivers of hospitalization and mortality risk.

If someone believes they should be designated as CEV priority and has not received a letter indicating so by April 15, 2021, they should check the "get vaccinated" online booking platform or call the "get vaccinated" call centre. If they are unable to book because they are not recognized in the CEV group their physician or nurse practitioner can complete an "attestation form" for patients fulfill the criteria. Patients will not be charged for the attestation form.

Liza Yuzda - News 1130;

Lauren Collins - Surrey Now-Leader

ISSUE: "Vaccine Hunters", teachers & unused doses

STATUS: Provided Background

- DBH responded in briefing.

Anna Mehler Paperny - Reuters

ISSUE: ICU numbers vaccinations in high risk worksites

STATUS: Provided Statement

- Dr. Henry spoke to this on April 6. As noted by Dr. Henry, more information on this will be available in the days and weeks ahead.
"As you know, in addition to our age-based program, we continue to immunize in some of the high-risk workplaces, though our parallel worker focus program remains on pause right now, as we are continuing to get more information about the AstraZeneca and COVISHIELD vaccines. Where we talked last week, the safety signal that was detected in Europe, there is more discussions with the experts going on internationally even as we speak. The European Medicines Agency and Health Canada is involved with these discussions. We are hoping to have more information about that very soon.
"In the meantime, we will be using the AstraZeneca that we have in B.C. to advance the age groups that are eligible for vaccine, and we have heard good news, that we might be receiving additional vaccines with the Johnson and Johnson vaccine being available sometime near the

end of this month. As soon as we have the ability, we will jumpstart our worker program once again. Please, be patient. We know that there's always challenges that we have with our immunization program, with the immunizations arriving, and we will be getting back to the worker program as soon as we possibly can."

Emily Lazatin - CKNW AM 980

ISSUE: health care professionals wanting to help with vaccines

STATUS: Reporter Dropped

- Nurses no longer want to speak on this so reporter dropped.

Laura Dhillon Kane - Canadian Press (BC Bureau)

ISSUE: VoC testing clarification

STATUS: Scheduled Interview

- BCCDC provided interview

Pieta Woolley - Powell River Living Magazine

ISSUE: more localized case updates daily

STATUS: Provided Background

- As noted by Dr. Bonnie Henry in yesterday's COVID-19 update, the recent uptick in COVID-19 cases in B.C. is not limited to any one region or community, but rather is an uptick that impacts every region in B.C. The threat of COVID-19 remains present for every community and region in

B.C., and as such it remains vital for people in every community throughout the province to continue to follow public health orders and guidelines diligently, in order to protect themselves and others.

See Dr. Henry's comments from April 7: "Concerningly, much of the increased transmission in the last little while is driven by social gatherings where people are disregarding our provincial safety precautions for a whole lot of reasons. We know that. There's no one cluster, one cause. It's happening everywhere. People may be staying to small numbers, but repeated different small numbers. It's particularly notable in our younger demographics now, because many young people live, work and socialize in the same networks."

COVID-19 cases are reported daily, with a breakdown of new cases by health authority available on the BCCDC dashboard:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/a6f23959a8b14bfa989e3cda29297ded>

Jill Mahoney - Globe and Mail

ISSUE: hospital staff vaccination rates

STATUS: Referred to Third Party

- Referred to PHSA as per program's instructions

Ashley Burr - CITY TV

ISSUE: P1 is BC second highest to Brazil?

STATUS: Provided Background

- PHO briefing provided data

Katya Slepian - Black Press Digital

ISSUE: Looking for a comment by the Province on schools closing due to COVID

STATUS: Provided Background

- PHO briefing touched on current restrictions

Marieke Walsh - Globe and Mail - Ottawa

ISSUE: vacs timeline - from deliver to administration

STATUS: Provided Background

- sent MD transcript:

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Srushti Gangdev - Burnaby Beacon

ISSUE: VoC qs

STATUS: Provided Background

- PHO briefing touched on this

Outstanding: 30

Mick Sweetman - CHLY Radio - Nanaimo

ISSUE: FNHA/BCCDC vacs data discrepancy

STATUS: With Program Area

Wildinette Paul - CBC - Radio Canada (French Services)

ISSUE: Prince Rupert vaccination details

STATUS: With Program Area

Ariana Cha - Washington Post

ISSUE: VoCs - has anyone who got these vaccinated?

STATUS: With Program Area

Sophie Woodrooffe - Coast Reporter

ISSUE: sunshine coast vacs bookings

STATUS: With Minister's Office

Steve Arstad - InfoNews

ISSUE: pharmacy vaccine locations

STATUS: With Program Area

Genevieve Lasalle - CBC Radio Canada

ISSUE: who tells people if their case is a VoC?

STATUS: With GCPE

Greg Sabatino - Williams Lake Tribune

ISSUE: Masks at gyms

STATUS: With GCPE

Ian Burns - The Lawyer's Daily

ISSUE: Restrictions on in-person worship appeal

STATUS: With Program Area

Georgina Smyth - CBC - National
ISSUE: rapid tests and foreign workers
STATUS: With Program Area

Mike MacDonald - Global TV | BC
ISSUE: Sunshine Coast vaccination booking issues
STATUS: With Minister's Office

Isabelle Raghem - CBC
ISSUE: CeV vacs so far
STATUS: With Program Area

Sarah Grochowski - Black Press Media
ISSUE: BCCDC slides
STATUS: With GCPE

Nicholas Pescod - CHEK TV - Victoria
ISSUE: request for data by HA
STATUS: With Minister's Office

Stefan Labbé - Tri-City News
ISSUE: AZ doses in BCCDC reserve after distribution
STATUS: With Minister's Office

Moira Wyton - The Tyee
ISSUE: vaccine priority for parents of medically complex kids
STATUS: With Program Area

Yvette Brend - CBC - Vancouver
ISSUE: Dr. Tam meeting
STATUS: With Program Area

Justine Hunter - Globe and Mail - BC Bureau
ISSUE: Frontline worker vaccines
STATUS: With Program Area

Sara Mojtehdzadeh - Toronto Star
ISSUE: prioritization of frontline workers
STATUS: With GCPE

Kelly Grant - Globe and Mail - BC Bureau
ISSUE: Shortage of Tocilizumab
STATUS: With Minister's Office

Darren Major - CBC - Power and Politics;
Rachel Gilmore - Global National
ISSUE: rapid tests
STATUS: With Minister's Office

Lori Culbert - Vancouver Sun

ISSUE: long haulers - post-COVID recovery clinics
STATUS: With Minister's Office

Mick Sweetman - CHLY Radio - Nanaimo;
Yvette Brend - CBC - Vancouver;
Shannon Waters - BC Today;
Salim Jiwa - Vancouverite;
Georgina Smyth - CBC - National
ISSUE: clarifying daily hospitalized briefing figures
STATUS: With Minister's Office

Gian-Paolo Mendoza - CBC - Vancouver
ISSUE: made-in-Canada N95
STATUS: With Minister's Office

Camille Bains - Canadian Press (BC Bureau)
ISSUE: AZ, hospitalization data
STATUS: With Minister's Office

Gordon Hoekstra - Vancouver Sun
ISSUE: Variant data from March 11 briefing
STATUS: With Program Area

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Subject: April 9 COVID-19 Media Report
Date: April 9, 2021 7:57:18 PM

Good evening Minister,

Today's media report is below.

Thank you,

Marielle Tounsi

Completed: 28

Jon Hernandez - CBC - Vancouver
ISSUE: Outbreak at Kent Institution?
STATUS: Referred to Third Party

- referred to HA

Nich Johansen - Castanet (Kelowna)
ISSUE: Retail closures on horizon?
STATUS: Provided Background

- Leah called to explain to reporter on background

Melissa Lopez-Martinez - CTV - Vancouver
ISSUE: BC COVID-19 vaccine data
STATUS: Provided Background

- Please see available data in the BCCDC data reports and dashboard:
<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/data#COVID-19Dashboard>

Amy Smart - Canadian Press (BC Bureau)
ISSUE: modeller projections
STATUS: Provided Background

- In order to help British Columbians understand the impact of COVID-19 and public health measures in B.C., regular modelling presentations are provided by public health officials during COVID-19 updates. Modelling presentations developed by public health can be found here. The next modelling presentation will take place in the weeks ahead. Public health measures taken in B.C. are expected to limit the spread of the virus but require all British Columbians to do their part to stop the transmission of the disease.
<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/modelling-projections>

Jeff Bell - Times Colonist

ISSUE: Comment on Greater Victoria Teachers Association NR

STATUS: Provided Background

- We know parents, students and staff are concerned about COVID-19 cases and the current of volume of cases in communities throughout B.C. We know the likelihood of transmission in a structured setting like school is much lower than in the community and that school is the best place for students social and emotional wellbeing.
Where the risk of community transmissions is higher, additional steps are being taken to continue to keep schools safe, like the recent vaccination of education staff in the Surrey school district.

The Ministry of Health releases data at a health authority level, which is available on the BCCDC's COVID-19 dashboard.

Justin McElroy - CBC - Victoria

ISSUE: PHO structure

STATUS: Provided Background

- PHO: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/biographies>
BCCDC: <http://www.bccdc.ca/about/leadership>
And each health authority has their Chief Medical Officers, ie VCH: <http://www.vch.ca/about-us/leadership/senior-executive-team>

Kristen Robinson - Global TV | BC

ISSUE: CFIB wants rapid testing so small businesses can avoid closures

STATUS: Provided Background

- Information for organizations interested in rapid COVID-19 POC tests is available through BC's Rapid Point of Care Screening Program at the BCCDC: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/testing/rapid-covid-19-point-of-care-screening-program>.
They are also encouraged to contact the POC testing program for more information.
RapidPOCTeam@phsa.ca

Kristen Robinson - Global TV | BC

ISSUE: vaccine no shows/unused vaccine stats

STATUS: Provided Background

- In B.C., public health is making every effort to avoid vaccine wastage. B.C. tracks vaccine wastage for COVID-19 vaccine and all other publicly funded vaccines.
 - Once the COVID-19 vaccine is punctured to withdraw the first dose or to dilute it (with saline, as required for the Pfizer vaccine), it must be administered within six hours. After six hours, the manufacturers require vaccine to be discarded.
 - If people do not arrive for their appointment, there are processes in place to ensure vaccine is not wasted. Rather than discard doses, the vaccine will be offered to others, with priority given to those who are part of any group prioritized for early vaccination.
 - Comprehensive standard operating procedures, educational materials, and additional

documents have been developed and shared with vaccine providers for approved vaccines.

- Medical health officers from each health authority are aware of these procedures and ensure every effort is made to avoid wastage.

Srushti Gangdev - Burnaby Beacon

ISSUE: VoC qs

STATUS: Provided Background

- We hope to have more to say on the details in the coming weeks, but in the meantime please refer to Dr. Henry's comments from yesterday's briefing:

"We need now to shift our strategy so that we can use the whole genome sequencing capacity we have in BC to do more systematic testing and sampling of all of the strains to make sure we're not missing another important one that may be arising. We don't need to test so much any more to understand if we have the UK strain here because it is here. It's increasing and it is causing more transmission in communities around the province. Right now, we're seeing a lot of it particularly in the Fraser Health region.

The P1 was one that was relatively new. We did a lot of focus testing in the early weeks with the chains of transmission and the clusters that were identified with P1. Now, we don't need to spend as much time understanding that. We have now seen that that strain as well is in a number of chains of transmission around the province. We need to pay attention to the important measures that we need to take with all of these strains to stop transmission.

As I said, we can't tell with the screening test alone whether it's that exact variant of concern or not. We need to look at whole genome sequencing in a more holistic way around the province to understand which strains are going to be replacing others, which strains are increasing and whether there's other concerning ones that are coming now.

Our strategy moving forward, given this high rate of VOCs that we're seeing in BC, will be to no longer routinely sequence for confirmation. We just assume that those screen-positives will be the variants. We assume that anybody who is positive for COVID-19 needs to be treated as if they have one of these highly transmissible viruses.

We will have a proportion that will be sequenced for continued surveillance over time so we understand what is changing in our environment over time. That's what we will be reporting on going forward. We'll be doing that in a systematic way as part of our weekly surveillance reports from the BCCDC."

Vincent Plana - The Daily Hive - Vancouver

ISSUE: schools not included in workplace closures

STATUS: Provided Background

- PHO Dr. Bonnie Henry confirmed in her Apr. 8th briefing that this new order does not apply to schools. I have included her comments below:

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Henry: The second question, to schools, no. This has been an ongoing evolution of the program that we have had in workplaces. It's part of the stepping-up of the workplace safety plans that we have had in place and helping augment the response.

This is not a change from the response that we have. It is the fact that our public health response is now more aligned with WorkSafeBC, and we are able to use the WorkSafeBC inspectors to augment the public health workforce to help businesses and support businesses where there is transmission in businesses.

So it's rather than taking that blunt tool of just closing everything when there is a transmission, to being able to support specific businesses when there is risk in those settings so that people can work safely.

But I do want to say it is on top of the importance that we have of the COVID safety plans and adhering to them, and where we have seen widespread challenges -- in restaurant dining, for example -- we have had to take the more blunt approach of stopping that risky behaviour.

So this is to support businesses so that we can continue to function safely and our partnership with WorkSafeBC to help us do that more effectively.

Steven Venegas - CBC - Vancouver;
Katie DeRosa - Postmedia Network Inc.;
Ashley Burr - CITY TV;
Eric Zimmer - The Daily Hive - Vancouver
ISSUE: expired vaccine administration
STATUS: Provided Background

- On background from the Ministry of Health:

All community vaccine providers including pharmacists are advised to adhere to BCCDC guidelines for immunization (<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/communicable-disease-control-manual/immunization>) which contain details related to the COVID-19 vaccines in Part 4 - Biological products.

When they become aware of an incident such as inadvertent administration of expired vaccine, they contact the local health unit for advice; BCCDC provides advice as required, if the issue is not addressed in the Immunization Manual. In general, those who receive an expired vaccine should be advised, and recommended revaccination. Immunization service providers should ensure that expired products are sequestered in the refrigerator or promptly removed upon expiry and returned to public health/source of vaccines for safe disposal.

Roxanne Egan-Elliott - Times Colonist;
Brishti Basu - Capital Daily
ISSUE: AstraZeneca program expanding to Pharmacies on Vancouver Island
STATUS: Provided Background

- We recognize people throughout the province are eager to access all vaccines that are available to them. More information on the rollout of the AstraZeneca vaccine in B.C. will be available in the days ahead.

Katie DeRosa - Postmedia Network Inc.
ISSUE: DPB INTERVIEW REQ - vaccine logistics
STATUS: Unavailable for Interview

- unavailable for interview but can try for next week.

Don Descoteau - Victoria News
ISSUE: Red Cross vaccine centre hiring
STATUS: Provided Background

- Red Cross employees have been employed to work at select vaccination centres throughout B.C. The Canadian Red Cross is providing non-clinical support to select vaccination centres throughout B.C.

In addition to partnering with the Red Cross, the Province is partnering with a number of other organizations, employing tourism and hospitality workers in mass vaccination clinics. This partnership will create hundreds of jobs for B.C.'s hard-hit tourism, hospitality and sport sectors.

Tourism and hospitality businesses have already begun to call and train hundreds of staff who have been laid off due to the pandemic. Workers from these industries will provide their expertise and logistical support as non-clinical staff at immunization clinics to help move people through the clinics efficiently and safely. Many of these workers bring additional language skills as well.

Community partners in this program include:

Air Canada
B.C. Pavilion Corporation
Ceres Terminals Canada
Canadian Red Cross
Fraser Valley Bandits
Pacific Destination Services
Pacific National Exhibition
Tourism Whistler
Vancouver Canucks
Vancouver Giants
Vancouver International Airport
WestJet

Municipal venue owners are also helping operate some clinics with contributions of staff, furniture and supplies.

We recognize this a difficult time for many people whose livelihoods have been impacted by the pandemic. With every vaccination administered, our communities are a bit more protected from COVID-19, which brings us closer to putting the pandemic behind us.

Mick Sweetman - CHLY Radio - Nanaimo
ISSUE: FNHA/BCCDC vacs data discrepancy
STATUS: Referred to Third Party

- FNHA

Martin MacMahon - News 1130
ISSUE: retail lockdown
STATUS: Provided Background

- Leah called to explain

Travis Prasad - CTV News Vancouver

ISSUE: retail shutdown!

STATUS: Provided Background

- Leah called to explain

Wildinette Paul - CBC - Radio Canada (French Services)

ISSUE: Prince Rupert vaccination details

STATUS: Provided Background

- The Ministry of Health releases vaccination data at a health authority level and other COVID-19 data on the BCCDC's COVID-19 dashboard.

We are working to gather more details to help you with your story on Prince Rupert, but it will take some time and won't be available today.

Steve Arstad - InfoNews

ISSUE: pharmacy vaccine locations

STATUS: Provided Background

- We recognize people throughout the province are eager to access all vaccines that are available to them. More information on the rollout of the AstraZeneca vaccine in B.C. will be available in the days ahead.

Josh Azizi - CFTK - Prince Rupert

ISSUE: INTERVIEW REQ - Prince Rupert AZ pharmacy roll out

STATUS: Provided Background

- We recognize people throughout the province are eager to access all vaccines that are available to them. More information on the rollout of the AstraZeneca vaccine in B.C. will be available in the days ahead.

Greg Sabatino - Williams Lake Tribune

ISSUE: Masks at gyms

STATUS: Provided Background

- Throughout the pandemic, public health and government continue to make every effort to support businesses to remain open and operating safely, when possible. To this end public health have developed requirements to allow for indoor exercise to continue, provided measures for preventing COVID-19 transmission are adhered to. Following orders of B.C.'s Provincial Health Officer, masks are required in many indoor public settings and all retail stores. This includes sport or fitness facilities. To further reduce transmission of COVID-19 in indoor settings, indoor high intensity group exercise is prohibited. High intensity group exercise causes a sustained and accelerated rate of breathing and may involve close contact with other people. Indoor low intensity group exercise is also prohibited until April 19 at 11:59 pm. Gyms and recreation facilities that offer individual workouts and personal training sessions

can remain open as long as they have a COVID-19 Safety Plan that is strictly followed.

Adam Miller - CBC - Toronto

ISSUE: Variants of Concerns - travel, restrictions

STATUS: Provided Background

- As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves in B.C., the response of public health to manage outbreaks, reduce transmission, and protect the public continues to evolve with it. Since day one of the pandemic, public health has made decisions around B.C.'s pandemic response based on the best available data and science from B.C., Canada, and jurisdictions around the world.

On April 8, Dr. Henry spoke to the importance of continuing to follow all public health orders and guidelines diligently:

"We have strict orders about not socializing outside your household; it is not okay to have friends and family over right now, it is putting them at risk. It is not okay to go on a weekend getaway; that is not essential, nor is your ski trip just because you have a pass. It's not okay right now to have a wedding, a birthday, any of these ceremonies where we come together because we are putting people at risk and those people are the ones we are closest to; all of these need to be postponed for now. All of our connections need to be done safely, we need to go back and remind each other that we have the means and we know what to do: small connections, safe connections, wearing masks, keeping our distance, staying outside rather than inside, using all our layers of protection right now all the time. We have vaccines on our side and we know the measures we need to take now as we get more and more people protected.

But this virus, in its many different forms, will take any advantage it can and will the increased transmissibility that we are seeing, we need to step back now and stop having our social connections that put our loved ones and people we don't know at risk. Show our health care workers that we have not forgotten we know how to do this and we know how to do this because have been through this pandemic together, and we will get through it together."

On April 1, Dr. Henry also spoke to the importance of following public health orders when connecting with others outdoors:

"If you do choose to spend time with anyone other than your immediate household in this weekend, it must be outdoors. And all of the COVID-19 safety plans and precautions need to continue to be followed. As more and more of our seniors and elders in particular are protected, we need to give that time for that best protection to take hold. That means ensuring you are giving enough space to others, staying away if you are feeling at all unwell, and staying with that same small group of people."

Guidelines for outdoor gatherings can be found here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restrictions>

Isabelle Raghem - CBC

ISSUE: CeV vacs so far

STATUS: Provided Background

- The Ministry of Health releases vaccination data at a health authority level, which is available on the BCCDC's COVID-19 dashboard.

At this time, the number you are requesting is not publicly available, however the Ministry of

Health and PHO will provide a vaccine rollout update in the coming weeks.

Rob Shaw - CHEK TV - Victoria

ISSUE: Dr. Henry book interview request - Rob Shaw Political Capital

STATUS: Referred to Third Party

- referred to DBH

Outstanding: 34

Don Descoteau - Victoria News

ISSUE: Followup to phone message re: Red Cross vaccine centre hiring

STATUS: With GCPE

Kristen Robinson - Global TV | BC

ISSUE: vaccine no show stats

STATUS: With GCPE

Angela Jung - CTV - Vancouver

ISSUE: care home outbreaks

STATUS: With Program Area

Mick Sweetman - CHLY Radio - Nanaimo

ISSUE: AstraZeneca supply

STATUS: With Program Area

Amy Smart - Canadian Press (BC Bureau)

ISSUE: vaccine timeline to expiry

STATUS: With Program Area

Madeline Howitt - Globe and Mail

ISSUE: Vaccine distribution - Whistler shared accomodation

STATUS: With Program Area

Scott Bleakley - Zoomers of the Sunshine Coast

ISSUE: Immunization website question

STATUS: With Program Area

Ariana Cha - Washington Post

ISSUE: VoCs - has anyone who got these vaccinated?

STATUS: With Program Area

Sophie Woodrooffe - Coast Reporter

ISSUE: sunshine coast vacs bookings

STATUS: With Minister's Office

Genevieve Lasalle - CBC Radio Canada

ISSUE: who tells people if their case is a VoC?

STATUS: With Minister's Office

Ian Burns - The Lawyer's Daily

ISSUE: Restrictions on in-person worship appeal

STATUS: With Program Area

Georgina Smyth - CBC - National
ISSUE: rapid tests and foreign workers
STATUS: With Minister's Office

Mike MacDonald - Global TV | BC
ISSUE: Sunshine Coast vaccination booking issues
STATUS: With Minister's Office

Sarah Grochowski - Black Press Media
ISSUE: BCCDC slides
STATUS: With GCPE

Nicholas Pescod - CHEK TV - Victoria
ISSUE: request for data by HA
STATUS: With Program Area

Stefan Labbé - Tri-City News
ISSUE: AZ doses in BCCDC reserve after distribution
STATUS: With Minister's Office

Moira Wyton - The Tyee
ISSUE: vaccine priority for parents of medically complex kids
STATUS: With Program Area

Yvette Brend - CBC - Vancouver
ISSUE: Dr. Tam meeting
STATUS: With Minister's Office

Justine Hunter - Globe and Mail - BC Bureau
ISSUE: Frontline worker vaccines
STATUS: With Program Area

Jill Mahoney - Globe and Mail
ISSUE: hospital staff vaccination rates
STATUS: With GCPE

Sara Mojtehdzadeh - Toronto Star
ISSUE: prioritization of frontline workers
STATUS: With Minister's Office

Kelly Grant - Globe and Mail - BC Bureau
ISSUE: Shortage of Tocilizumab
STATUS: With Minister's Office

Rachel Levy-McLaughlin - CBC Radio
ISSUE: MD INTERVIEW REQUEST - essential workers vacs strategy
STATUS: With Minister's Office

Michelle Eliot - CBC - Vancouver
ISSUE: DBH INTERVIEW REQ -

STATUS: With Minister's Office

Darren Major - CBC - Power and Politics;

Rachel Gilmore - Global National

ISSUE: rapid tests

STATUS: With Minister's Office

Lori Culbert - Vancouver Sun

ISSUE: long haulers - post-COVID recovery clinics

STATUS: With Minister's Office

Mick Sweetman - CHLY Radio - Nanaimo;

Yvette Brend - CBC - Vancouver;

Shannon Waters - BC Today; Salim Jiwa - Vancouverite;

Georgina Smyth - CBC - National

ISSUE: clarifying daily hospitalized briefing figures

STATUS: With Minister's Office

Gian-Paolo Mendoza - CBC - Vancouver

ISSUE: made-in-Canada N95

STATUS: With Minister's Office

Camille Bains - Canadian Press (BC Bureau)

ISSUE: AZ, hospitalization data

STATUS: With Minister's Office

Gordon Hoekstra - Vancouver Sun

ISSUE: Variant data from March 11 briefing

STATUS: With Minister's Office