

Communications Situation Report - February 1, 2021

From: Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>
To: GCPE Comm Directors <PABDirectors@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>, GCPE Executive (HQ) <PABExec@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>, GCPE Comm Managers <GCPECM@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>
Cc: EMBC Executive <EMBCEXEC@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>, Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>, Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX <Hannah.Lawrie@gov.bc.ca>, EMBC PECC Liaison 1 EMBC:EX <pecc.lia1@gov.bc.ca>, s.17, Samadi, Talieh FIN:EX <Talieh.Samadi@gov.bc.ca>, LP PREM Directors <PREMDIR@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>, Godlonton, Brian EMBC:EX <Brian.Godlonton@gov.bc.ca>, Copeland, Kimberly GCPE:EX <Kimberly.Copeland@gov.bc.ca>, Allen, Jackie PREM:EX <Jackie.Allen@gov.bc.ca>, Kingsford, Douglas HLTH:EX <Douglas.Kingsford@gov.bc.ca>, Devine, Heather PSA:EX <Heather.Devine@gov.bc.ca>, Grieve, Chandler GCPE:EX <Chandler.Grieve@gov.bc.ca>, Smith, Devon GCPE:EX <Devon.P.Smith@gov.bc.ca>, Brandt, Alissa GCPE:EX <Alissa.Brandt@gov.bc.ca>, Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX <Tim.Howlett@gov.bc.ca>, Marriott, Sarah GCPE:EX <Sarah.Marriott@gov.bc.ca>, Sanderson, Melanie PSSG:EX <Melanie.Sanderson@gov.bc.ca>, Maartman, William PSSG:EX <William.Maartman@gov.bc.ca>, Gostelow, Tara GCPE:EX <Tara.Gostelow@gov.bc.ca>, Richards, Tara R EMBC:EX <Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca>, Cunnings, Ian EMBC:EX <Ian.Cunnings@gov.bc.ca>, Fiala, Tony EMBC:EX <Tony.Fiala@gov.bc.ca>, Wainwright, Ryan EMBC:EX <Ryan.Wainwright@gov.bc.ca>, Morrison, Andrew EMBC:EX <Andrew.Morrison@gov.bc.ca>, Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>, Douglas, Andrew PSSG:EX <Andrew.Douglas@gov.bc.ca>, McCabe, Melissa EMBC:EX <Melissa.McCabe@gov.bc.ca>, Williams, Susan GCPE:EX <Susan.Williams@gov.bc.ca>, Finkel, Paul PREM:EX <Paul.Finkel@gov.bc.ca>

Hi all,

Please find below the Communications Situation Report for February 1. Updates are in RED.

Thanks,

Jordan Turner

Communications Director | EMBC

Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre

Phone: (236) 478-0210 Cell: (250) 896-1928

Emergency Management BC Communications Sit Report Daily Summary

Date: February 1, 2021

*Please note, given the dynamic nature of emergencies, the following information is subject to change after this report is distributed.

COVID-19 Overview

- 3 periods of data reflected in these numbers
- Number of confirmed cases in BC: 67,937 (1158 new)

- 15,616 (+295) Vancouver Coastal Health
 - 40,677 (+493) Fraser Health
 - 1675 (+78) Island Health
 - 6345 (+194) Interior Health
 - 3489 (+98) Northern Health
 - 135 people who reside outside Canada
- Active cases: 4134 (-423)
- Deaths: 1210 (21 new)
- 289 (-3) are in hospital – 79 (+5) in ICU/CCU
- Recovered: 61,117 (+1566)

News Releases

- Provincial
 - JERI: Digital marketing helps businesses pivot during pandemic
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021JERI0005-000172>
 - Dr. Henry and Minister Dix Joint Statement
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021HLTH0006-000185>
- Federal
 - Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/02/statement-from-the-chief-public-health-officer-of-canada-on-february-1-2021.html>

News Conferences

Dr. Henry and Minister Dix Update (3:00 p.m.)

- Tues, Weds, Thurs: Written briefings
- Friday morning: in-person briefing on latest modelling/state of pandemic
 - *Also the day when current Public Health Orders expire.*

Dr. Henry

- 1,158 new cases, 4 epi-linked
 - Fri-Sat: 408
 - Sat-Sun: 473
 - Sun-Mon: 277
- 67,937 total
 - 295 VCH
 - 493 FH
 - 78 VIHA
 - 194 INT
 - 98 NH
- 4,134 active cases
 - 289 hospitalized, 79 in CCU/ICU
- 7,242 people under active monitoring
- 61,117 recovered
- 21 deaths, total 1,210
- 1 new health care outbreak, 2 over
 - 24 active outbreaks in LTC/AL, 8 in acute care
 - 801 residents, 430 staff
- Limited vaccine supply right now, but we will be increasing available supply through February.
- Continuing with preparation to have widespread immunization underway in a few short weeks.
 - Expecting additional Moderna later this week.
 - Small amount of Pfizer also expected this week.
- 138,892 immunized with first dose,
 - Of those, 4,491 have also had second dose.

Variants of concern

- To date, 18 cases confirmed of variants of concern.
 - 4 cases of B1.351 (South Africa)
 - 3 cases unlinked, community cases.
 - 1 case was a contact of one of these cases.
 - 3 in Vancouver Coastal, 1 in Fraser Health
 - We are actively trying to determine where ppl involved acquired infections.
 - 14 cases of B117 (UK)
 - 7 new cases confirmed over the weekend.
 - 4 VIHA
 - 1 a traveller from UK and 3 contacts
 - 1 VCH
 - 1 IH
 - 8 FH, 7 of 8 travel-related (UK, Europe, other areas)
 - 1 was contact of traveller.
- We've done a little over 11,000 whole genome sequencing – random and targeted sampling.
- Ability to do about 500/day.
- Looking at ways to increase that.
- One of variant contacts at Garibaldi Sec in Fraser Health.
 - Test on cohort of contact (80+ ppl) will be tested.

Trends, socializing

- Over last few weeks: decrease in rates in school-aged children and older people.
- However, increase in 10-40 age group.
- Some related to workplace, some related to social exposures.
- Coming up: Superbowl this weekend, then Lunar New Year/Family Day, then Spring Break
 - Normally we would get together with friends/family.
 - Like the December holidays, this year we need to celebrate safely.
- WorkSafeBC last week working with public health to get a handle on some areas where we're seeing surges (Whistler and other areas)
- **Order update coming Friday.**
- **In the meantime: I'm calling on everyone to hold off on SuperBowl celebrations. You should not be planning viewing parties at home, in a restaurant, in a bar.**
- If we can't control this, we can undo all the good work we've done.
- We need to respect staff at restaurants, etc. and not put them at risk.
- Stay small, stay apart, stay local, so we can keep bars, restaurants, retail spaces, workplaces open.
- This applies to anyone in B.C. and anyone considering coming here.

Minister Dix

- MOH has engaged Red Cross to help at LTC and AL facilities, non-clinical staff. (admin etc)
 - Typical deployment – two teams of ten to cover seven days.
 - Maximum 4 weeks/site.
 - Identifying up to five priority sites in VCH/FH.
- At this moment we have to act to stop the spread, this will determine what our pandemic will look like in the near future.
- This is a very important moment.
- We must continue to follow guidance and advice.

Media Summary

COVID-19

Morris - COVID fines

CKNW (Vancouver)
CKNW Jill Bennett
2021-02-01 14:07

Copyright

Laird - vaccination info privacy
CHNL (Kamloops)
2021-02-01 14:04

Copyright

Tostenson - COVID-19 Super Bowl
CKNW (Vancouver)
CKNW Jill Bennett
2021-02-01 13:34

Copyright

Murthy - COVID-19 school protocols
CBU (CBC Vancouver)
CBC BC Today
2021-02-01 12:48

Copyright

Mooring - COVID-19 school protocols
CBU (CBC Vancouver)
CBC BC Today
2021-02-01 12:35

Copyright

Otto - COVID-19 protocols
CBU (CBC Vancouver)
CBC BC Today
2021-02-01 12:06

Copyright

Copyright

Over 1,500 workplaces violate COVID-19 restrictions

Sing Tao Daily (Western edition)

2021-02-01 10:00

Copyright

Shien - makeshift nightclub

CBU (CBC Vancouver)

2021-02-01 06:33

Copyright

Communications Situation Report - February 1, 1210

From : Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>

To: GCPE Comm Directors <PABDirectors@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>, GCPE Executive (HQ) <PABExec@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>, GCPE Comm Managers <GCPECM@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>

Cc: EMBC Executive <EMBCEXEC@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>, Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>, Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX <Hannah.Lawrie@gov.bc.ca>, EMBC PECC Liaison 1 EMBC:EX <pecc.lia1@gov.bc.ca>, s.17, Samadi, Talieh FIN:EX <Talieh.Samadi@gov.bc.ca>, LP PREM Directors <PREMDIR@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>, Godlonton, Brian EMBC:EX <Brian.Godlonton@gov.bc.ca>, Copeland, Kimberly GCPE:EX <Kimberly.Copeland@gov.bc.ca>, Allen, Jackie PREM:EX <Jackie.Allen@gov.bc.ca>, Kingsford, Douglas HLTH:EX <Douglas.Kingsford@gov.bc.ca>, Devine, Heather PSA:EX <Heather.Devine@gov.bc.ca>, Grieve, Chandler GCPE:EX <Chandler.Grieve@gov.bc.ca>, Smith, Devon GCPE:EX <Devon.P.Smith@gov.bc.ca>, Brandt, Alissa GCPE:EX <Alissa.Brandt@gov.bc.ca>, Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX <Tim.Howlett@gov.bc.ca>, Marriott, Sarah GCPE:EX <Sarah.Marriott@gov.bc.ca>, Sanderson, Melanie PSSG:EX <Melanie.Sanderson@gov.bc.ca>, Maartman, William PSSG:EX <William.Maartman@gov.bc.ca>, Gostelow, Tara GCPE:EX <Tara.Gostelow@gov.bc.ca>, Richards, Tara R EMBC:EX <Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca>, Cunnings, Ian EMBC:EX <Ian.Cunnings@gov.bc.ca>, Fiala, Tony EMBC:EX <Tony.Fiala@gov.bc.ca>, Wainwright, Ryan EMBC:EX <Ryan.Wainwright@gov.bc.ca>, Morrison, Andrew EMBC:EX <Andrew.Morrison@gov.bc.ca>, Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>, Douglas, Andrew PSSG:EX <Andrew.Douglas@gov.bc.ca>, McCabe, Melissa EMBC:EX <Melissa.McCabe@gov.bc.ca>, Williams, Susan GCPE:EX <Susan.Williams@gov.bc.ca>, Finkel, Paul PREM:EX <Paul.Finkel@gov.bc.ca>

Hi all,

Please find below the Communications Situation Report for February 2. Updates are in RED.

Thanks,

Jordan Turner

Communications Director | EMBC

Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre

Phone: (236) 478-0210 Cell: (250) 896-1928

Emergency Management BC Communications Sit Report Daily Summary

Date: February 2, 2021

*Please note, given the dynamic nature of emergencies, the following information is subject to change after this report is distributed.

COVID-19 Overview

- Number of confirmed cases in BC: 68,366 (429 new)
 - 15,728 (+112) Vancouver Coastal Health

- 40,879 (+202) Fraser Health
- 1702 (+27) Island Health
- 6396 (+51) Interior Health
- 3524 (+35) Northern Health
- 137 (+2) people who reside outside Canada
- Active cases: 4542 (+408)
- Deaths: 1218 (8 new)
- 294 (+5) are in hospital – 82 (+3) in ICU/CCU
- Recovered: 61,129 (+12)

News Releases

- Provincial
 - Premier: COVID-19 ICBC customer rebates to average \$190
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021PREM0008-000191>
 - Dr. Henry and Minister Dix Joint Statement
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021HLTH0009-000195>
 - EMBC: State of Emergency extended to continue B.C.'s COVID-19 response
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021PSSG0008-000190>
- Federal
 - Prime Minister: New support to produce COVID-19 vaccines and treatments in Canada
<https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/02/02/new-support-produce-covid-19-vaccines-and-treatments-canada>
 - Government investments in COVID-19 vaccines and biomanufacturing
<https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/02/background--government-of-canada-investments-in-covid-19-vaccines-and-biomanufacturing-capacity.html>
 - Government supports projects to encourage vaccine uptake in Canada
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-supports-projects-to-encourage-vaccine-uptake-in-canada.html>
 - Remarks from the Chief Public Health Officer
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/02/remarks-from-the-chief-public-health-officer-on-covid-19-february-2-2021.html>

News Conferences

Prime Minister Availability (8:15 a.m.)

Prime Minister:

- This weekend, it was 3 weeks with COVID cases consistently falling across the country
- It's because of the choices people are making – your actions making a difference
- Can't let up now – must double down
- We're on track to get everyone vaccinated by September
- Already over 1.1 million vaccine doses delivered to provinces and territories – nearly 87% administered
- Most vulnerable receiving vaccines who can save lives, particularly front-line workers and health care facilities
- Vaccines are no small task and we knew there would be hurdles
- That's why we created a smart, proactive plan on vaccines and vaccine rollout
- **Announcement:**
- **Two companies – Precision Nano Systems and Novavax on track to manufacture vaccines here in Canada**

- We've signed a MOA with Novavax to produce their vaccines in Montreal
- Pending Health Canada approval – tens of millions of COVID vaccine doses made here at home
- We need as much domestic capacity as possible – invested \$46M in vaccine development at University of Saskatchewan
- Thanks to federal investment – Precision Nano Systems will build production facility that can produce up to 240M vaccine doses yearly
- Vaccines work – when it's my turn I'll be ready to roll up my sleeve
- I hope you'll join me
- No one who wants a vaccine will be left behind. No community will be left out
- Our priority is to protect you and your family
- Also investing in treatments and testing – allocated \$14M to development of COVID treatment by Odessa biotech in Ontario
- Could save the lives of those most seriously infected with COVID
- We have to stay strong a little longer but we're all up to the challenge

Media Summary

COVID-19

Trudeau - COVID-19 vaccine production

CKWX (Vancouver)

News 1130

2021-02-02 10:03

Copyright

Coombs - COVID-19 vaccine

CFAX (Victoria)

CFAX Adam Stirling

2021-02-02 10:07

Copyright

Johnson - Whistler COVID cases

CHNL (Kamloops)

2021-02-02 09:04

Copyright

Sterrit - Nuxalk vaccinations

CBYK (CBC Kamloops)

CBC Daybreak Kamloops

2021-02-02 08:15

Copyright

Guignard - COVID-19 Super Bowl

CFAX (Victoria)

CFAX Mornings with Al Ferraby

2021-02-02 08:51

Copyright

Lake - COVID-19 rapid testing

CHNL (Kamloops)

CHNL Howie Reimer

2021-02-02 07:40

Copyright

Top doctor warns of COVID 19 variants taking root across Canada

CP News

Christopher Reynolds

2021-02-02 13:19

Copyright

COVID BC Rebates

CP News

2021-02-02 13:43

Copyright

Quealey - COVID-19 LTC assistance

CBU (CBC Vancouver)

CBC On the Coast

2021-02-02 15:08

Copyright

Key Messages:

We will only be posting updated messaging that is produced each day. Please reach out directly if you need something specific that is not listed here.

Am I eligible for the ICBC rebate coming in the spring? When can I expect to receive this?

- ICBC customers will receive a one-time rebate averaging \$190 this spring – part of \$600 million saved due to a major decrease in crashes and costs during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The rebate amount is based on a portion of what was paid for coverage and is per vehicle owned, per policy during the eligible period.
- ICBC will begin mailing rebate cheques in mid-March 2021. This one-time rebate is separate from the Enhanced Care refunds customers will start to receive in May 2021.
- Most ICBC customers with an active policy from April 1, 2020 to September 30, 2020 are eligible. Exceptions include customers with short-term, storage or distance-based policies, whose premiums already reflect lower usage.
- [Learn more about ICBC's COVID-19 response](#)

Are municipalities able to declare States of Emergency at this time? When has the State of Emergency been extended to?

- With the exception of First Nations communities, local state of emergencies related to COVID-19 are not permitted under the provincial state of emergency.
- Under the provincial state of emergency, local governments have the resources and ability to direct those resources, necessary to comply with the Provincial Health Officer's orders.
- To support the extraordinary measures under the Emergency Program Act to keep people safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, the provincial state of emergency has been extended to February 16, 2021. This ensures the necessary actions to keep British Columbians safe and manage immediate concerns and COVID-19 outbreaks.
- The extension of the provincial state of emergency is based on recommendations from B.C.'s health and emergency management officials. The original declaration was made on March 18, 2020, the day after Dr. Henry declared a public health emergency.
- On July 10, the COVID-19 Related Measures Act came into force. The legislation enables provisions created for people and businesses in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to continue as needed after the provincial state of emergency ends.

Communications Situation Report - February 3, 2021

From : Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>

To: GCPE Comm Directors <PABDirectors@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>, GCPE Executive (HQ) <PABExec@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>, GCPE Comm Managers <GCPECM@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>

Cc: EMBC Executive <EMBCEXEC@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>, Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>, Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX <Hannah.Lawrie@gov.bc.ca>, EMBC PECC Liaison 1 EMBC:EX <pecc.lia1@gov.bc.ca>, s.17 Samadi, Talieh FIN:EX <Talieh.Samadi@gov.bc.ca>, LP PREM Directors <PREMDIR@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>, Godlonton, Brian EMBC:EX <Brian.Godlonton@gov.bc.ca>, Copeland, Kimberly GCPE:EX <Kimberly.Copeland@gov.bc.ca>, Allen, Jackie PREM:EX <Jackie.Allen@gov.bc.ca>, Kingsford, Douglas HLTH:EX <Douglas.Kingsford@gov.bc.ca>, Devine, Heather PSA:EX <Heather.Devine@gov.bc.ca>, Grieve, Chandler GCPE:EX <Chandler.Grieve@gov.bc.ca>, Smith, Devon GCPE:EX <Devon.P.Smith@gov.bc.ca>, Brandt, Alissa GCPE:EX <Alissa.Brandt@gov.bc.ca>, Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX <Tim.Howlett@gov.bc.ca>, Marriott, Sarah GCPE:EX <Sarah.Marriott@gov.bc.ca>, Sanderson, Melanie PSSG:EX <Melanie.Sanderson@gov.bc.ca>, Maartman, William PSSG:EX <William.Maartman@gov.bc.ca>, Gostelow, Tara GCPE:EX <Tara.Gostelow@gov.bc.ca>, Richards, Tara R EMBC:EX <Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca>, Cunnings, Ian EMBC:EX <Ian.Cunnings@gov.bc.ca>, Fiala, Tony EMBC:EX <Tony.Fiala@gov.bc.ca>, Wainwright, Ryan EMBC:EX <Ryan.Wainwright@gov.bc.ca>, Morrison, Andrew EMBC:EX <Andrew.Morrison@gov.bc.ca>, Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>, Douglas, Andrew PSSG:EX <Andrew.Douglas@gov.bc.ca>, McCabe, Melissa EMBC:EX <Melissa.McCabe@gov.bc.ca>, Williams, Susan GCPE:EX <Susan.Williams@gov.bc.ca>, Finkel, Paul PREM:EX <Paul.Finkel@gov.bc.ca>

Hi all,

Please find below the Communications Situation Report for February 3. Updates are in RED.

Thanks,

Jordan Turner

Communications Director | EMBC

Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre

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Emergency Management BC Communications Sit Report Daily Summary

Date: February 3, 2021

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COVID-19 Overview

- Number of confirmed cases in BC: 68,780 (414 new)
 - 15,836 (+108) Vancouver Coastal Health

- 41,061 (+182) Fraser Health
- 1728 (+26) Island Health
- 6459 (+63) Interior Health
- 3558 (+34) Northern Health
- 138 (+1) people who reside outside Canada
- Active cases: 4426 (-116)
- Deaths: 1234 (16 new)
- 278 (-16) are in hospital – 80 (-2) in ICU/CCU
- Recovered: 61,643 (+514)

News Releases

- Provincial
 - JERI: Funding supports businesses to launch online
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021JERI0009-000194>
 - Dr. Henry and Minister Dix Joint Statement
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021HLTH0028-000199>
- Federal
 - Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/02/statement-from-the-chief-public-health-officer-of-canada-on-february-3-2021.html>

All Agency Communications Coordination Call (11:30 a.m.)

Brief issues list:

s.17

Full Update:

Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre Update – Jordan Turner

- PM put in a series of travel measures:
 - Canadian Airlines suspending flights
 - New quarantine measures for returning to Canada
- Provincial updates
 - Focused on Stronger BC programs
 - COVID-related ICBC rebates
 - Latest State of Emergency Extension yesterday until Feb 16

Health

- 429 cases reported yesterday
- 4,542 active cases – 295 in hospital and 82 in ICU
- This Friday Dr. Henry and Minister Dix – updated modelling and update to restrictions

PSSG

- Monitoring media and follow-ups on ICBC COVID rebates

Education

- Tomorrow at 10am Education Min, Dr. Henry and President of BC School Trustees Assoc
- update on enhanced health guidelines and more funding to support continued safe schools

RCMP

- interested to hear what Dr. Henry will have to say re: continuing or changing orders
- Health will connect with RCMP on updates

WorkSafe

- Announcing at 11 am tomorrow, new awareness campaign re: workplace health and safety measures during COVID

s.17

Red Cross

- Had announcement on Monday – partnership in long-term care homes

City of Victoria

- Yesterday had 'Shower Power' start up – it's a Salvation Army initiative to provide mobile showers for those sheltering in parks

Media Summary

COVID-19

COVID-19 Whistler travel

CFTV (Fairchild TV)

CFTV Fairchild Evening News

2021-02-02 19:04

Copyright

Canim Lake Band COVID update

CHNL (Kamloops)

2021-02-03 11:02

Copyright

Richter - COVID-19 vaccines for homeless

CFAX (Victoria)

2021-02-03 10:04

Copyright

Copyright

Cummings - Fort Nelson air services

CBYG (CBC Prince George)

CBC Daybreak North

2021-02-03 06:24

Copyright

Okanagan FN COVID outbreaks

CKNW (Vancouver)

2021-02-03 08:32

Copyright

Lee - COVID-19 travel data

CKWX (Vancouver)

News 1130

2021-02-03 08:09

Copyright

VCH Nuxalk FN apology

CKWX (Vancouver)

News 1130

2021-02-03 08:11

Copyright

Clifford - paramedic COVID-19 study

CKWX (Vancouver)
News 1130
2021-02-03 07:10

Copyright

COVID-19 test method advisory

CKWX (Vancouver)
News 1130
2021-02-03 07:06

Copyright

PIB COVID-19 directive

CBU (CBC Vancouver)
2021-02-03 06:31

Copyright

Dix - COVID-19 LTC outbreaks

CHNL (Kamloops)
2021-02-03 13:03

Copyright

Key Messages:

We will only be posting updated messaging that is produced each day. Please reach out directly if you need something specific that is not listed here.

My business is interested in online sales and operations. Is there a government grant for me?

- The Launch Online Grant Program provides business owners, including those in sectors such as retail, tourism and restaurants, with up to \$7,500 to build or strengthen their online store and promote BuyBC at a local, national and international level.
 - Up to 25% of the program funds will be reserved for regional and Indigenous businesses.
 - The grant will pay for up to 75% of eligible expenses up to \$7,500 per business to develop or enhance their online store.
- Applications are now open and can be submitted at <https://launchonline.ca/>
- As part of the application, businesses are required to develop a short grant proposal that indicates how they plan to use the funds.
- On average, the application process takes about 10 - 20 minutes to complete.
- From the receipt of an application, it is expected to take Alacrity Canada, who are administering the program, approximately three weeks to award the funding.

What are the eligibility criteria for the Launch Online Grant Program?

- To be eligible for the Launch Online Grant program, the business must be B.C.-based and be registered through BC Registry Services to do business in B.C.
- The business must have:
 - a GST number and pay taxes in B.C.
 - generated sales of more than \$30,000 in the past year
 - one to 149 employees
- The business must also have repeatable products or, in the case of artists and jewellers, individual items that have slight differences (i.e. paintings or rings).
- As part of the application, businesses are required to develop a grant proposal that indicates how they plan to use the funds.
- The funds must be used within 12 weeks of receipt.
- Successful applicants must use one or more local BC service providers to complete the establishment (build or improve) of their online store.
- The only non-BC-based eligible expenses include platform subscription, purchase of online photos and graphics, and the purchase of online promotional space such as Facebook ads.
- The program will run until March 31, 2021.
- If the funds are distributed prior to March 31, 2021, the program will close on the last date the funds are distributed.
- For more details on eligibility visit: <https://launchonline.ca/>

Communications Situation Report - February 4, 2021

From: Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>
To: GCPE Comm Directors <PABDirectors@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>, GCPE Executive (HQ) <PABExec@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>, GCPE Comm Managers <GCPECM@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>
Cc: EMBC Executive <EMBCEXEC@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>, Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>, Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX <Hannah.Lawrie@gov.bc.ca>, EMBC PECC Liaison 1 EMBC:EX <pecc.lia1@gov.bc.ca>, s.17, Samadi, Talieh FIN:EX <Talieh.Samadi@gov.bc.ca>, LP PREM Directors <PREMDIR@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>, Godlonton, Brian EMBC:EX <Brian.Godlonton@gov.bc.ca>, Copeland, Kimberly GCPE:EX <Kimberly.Copeland@gov.bc.ca>, Allen, Jackie PREM:EX <Jackie.Allen@gov.bc.ca>, Kingsford, Douglas HLTH:EX <Douglas.Kingsford@gov.bc.ca>, Devine, Heather PSA:EX <Heather.Devine@gov.bc.ca>, Grieve, Chandler GCPE:EX <Chandler.Grieve@gov.bc.ca>, Smith, Devon GCPE:EX <Devon.P.Smith@gov.bc.ca>, Brandt, Alissa GCPE:EX <Alissa.Brandt@gov.bc.ca>, Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX <Tim.Howlett@gov.bc.ca>, Marriott, Sarah GCPE:EX <Sarah.Marriott@gov.bc.ca>, Sanderson, Melanie PSSG:EX <Melanie.Sanderson@gov.bc.ca>, Maartman, William PSSG:EX <William.Maartman@gov.bc.ca>, Gostelow, Tara GCPE:EX <Tara.Gostelow@gov.bc.ca>, Richards, Tara R EMBC:EX <Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca>, Cunnings, Ian EMBC:EX <Ian.Cunnings@gov.bc.ca>, Fiala, Tony EMBC:EX <Tony.Fiala@gov.bc.ca>, Wainwright, Ryan EMBC:EX <Ryan.Wainwright@gov.bc.ca>, Morrison, Andrew EMBC:EX <Andrew.Morrison@gov.bc.ca>, Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>, Douglas, Andrew PSSG:EX <Andrew.Douglas@gov.bc.ca>, McCabe, Melissa EMBC:EX <Melissa.McCabe@gov.bc.ca>, Williams, Susan GCPE:EX <Susan.Williams@gov.bc.ca>, Finkel, Paul PREM:EX <Paul.Finkel@gov.bc.ca>

Hi all,

Please find below the Communications Situation Report for February 4. Updates are in RED.

Thanks,

Jordan Turner

Communications Director | EMBC

Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre

Phone: (236) 478-0210 Cell: (250) 896-1928

Emergency Management BC Communications Sit Report Daily Summary

Date: February 4, 2021

*Please note, given the dynamic nature of emergencies, the following information is subject to change after this report is distributed.

COVID-19 Overview

- Number of confirmed cases in BC: 69,245 (465 new)
 - 15,934 (+98) Vancouver Coastal Health

- 41,295 (+234) Fraser Health
- 1755 (+27) Island Health
- 6513 (+54) Interior Health
- 3610 (+52) Northern Health
- 138 people who reside outside Canada
- Active cases: 4447 (+21)
- Deaths: 1240 (6 new)
- 257 (-21) are in hospital – 76 (-4) in ICU/CCU
- Recovered: 62,078 (+435)

News Releases

- Provincial
 - EDUC: Enhanced safety measures for K-12 schools
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021EDUC0011-000201>
 - Dr. Henry and Minister Dix Joint Statement
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021HLTH0009-000204>
- Federal
 - Government announces one-year ban for pleasure craft and cruise vessels
<https://www.canada.ca/en/transport-canada/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-announces-one-year-ban-for-pleasure-craft-and-cruise-vessels.html>
 - COVID-19 updated for Indigenous Peoples and communities
<https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-covid-19-update-for-indigenous-peoples-and-communities.html>
 - Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/02/statement-from-the-chief-public-health-officer-of-canada-on-february-4-2021.html>

Media Summary

COVID-19

B.C. strengthens mask rules for middle, high school students and K 12 staff

CP News

2021-02-04 11:03

Copyright

Mooring - school safety announcement

CFAX (Victoria)

2021-02-04 10:01

Copyright

COVID-19 Super Bowl guidelines

CFAX

2021-02-04 08:35

Copyright

CKWX: BCTF COVID-19 survey

CKWX (Vancouver)

News 1130

2021-02-04 08:06

Copyright

Cruise/pleasure craft COVID restrictions

CFAX (Victoria)

2021-02-04 11:31

Copyright

Henderson - Canim Lake Band COVID transition

CHNL (Kamloops)
2021-02-04 08:03

Copyright

Bach - domestic COVID-19 production

CBTK (CBC Kelowna)
CBC Daybreak South
2021-02-04 07:47

Copyright

Ballingall - Big White outbreak

CBTK (CBC Kelowna)
CBC Daybreak South
2021-02-04 08:12

Copyright

Farnworth - COVID fines

CKNW (Vancouver)
2021-02-04 09:01

Copyright

Miller - Indigenous COVID-19 cases

CBC
CBC Newsworld
2021-02-04 13:12

Copyright

Failed Nuxalk vaccination

Carman - LTC COVID-19 outbreak study

CBU (CBC Vancouver)

CBC Early Edition

2021-02-04 06:51

Copyright

Copyright

Key Messages:

We will only be posting updated messaging that is produced each day. Please reach out directly if you need something specific that is not listed here.

K-12 Education Guidelines

- B.C. is continuing to strengthen health and safety plans in K-12 schools to keep students, teachers and staff safe during the pandemic.
- To make sure schools remain as safe as possible for students and staff as the pandemic evolves, we have worked with our partners and public health on a continuous review of the guidelines, adapting and responding when needed.

What are the new mask requirements for middle and secondary students and K-12 staff?

- All middle and secondary students and K-12 staff will now be required to wear non-medical masks in all indoor areas, including when they are with their learning groups.
- The only exceptions are when:
 - sitting or standing at their seat or workstation in a classroom;
 - there is a barrier in place; or
 - when they are eating or drinking.

What about masks for elementary students?

- We need to remember that masks do not prevent the spread of COVID-19 on their own – we still need layers of protection to ensure students and staff continue to follow the guidelines, including washing their hands often and not coming to school if they even have mild symptoms.
- For elementary students, wearing masks indoors or on buses remains a family/caregiver choice.
- These updates are part of ongoing work of the provincial education steering committee and are in alignment with public health updates.
- If a student or staff member develops symptoms while at school, they must wear a mask while they are preparing to go home. [Review COVID-19 mask use information](#) from the BCCDC.

What about guidelines on physical exercise (P.E.) and music classes?

- Guidelines have also been strengthened for physical education and music classes.
- High-intensity physical activities are to be held outside as much as possible.
- Shared equipment or items such as weight machines, treadmills or musical instruments can be used only if they are cleaned between use, according to strict school sanitization guidelines.
- Students using equipment or playing instruments should also be spaced at least two metres apart, and masks are to be used when singing.

- Shared equipment or items like musical instruments can be used only if they are cleaned between use, according to strict school sanitization guidelines.

Are there supports for Indigenous students and staff?

- To support Indigenous learners, \$8.2 million in funding will go towards addressing learning loss and student health, technology for remote learning, education and mental health support, adapting classroom spaces, and enhanced cleaning.

How does this help contact tracing in schools?

- \$900,000 of funding has been allocated for six regional rapid response teams, one for each health authority and one dedicated to support independent schools, with representatives from both school and public health staff.
- These teams, announced in November 2020 by the B.C. Public Health Officer, will improve the speed of school exposure investigations so health authorities can inform school districts and families more quickly.
- Rapid response teams will conduct physical or virtual site inspections to ensure K-12 COVID health and safety guidelines are being followed consistently.
- If there has been a significant exposure event or an in-school transmission, rapid response teams will be deployed to conduct a review and make recommendations, if needed.
- School principals and vice-principals at each school will also be provided with COVID health and safety checklists to ensure they are consistently following provincial guidelines, and families in their local communities are reminded of the personal measures they can take to help keep schools safe.
- School districts and independent school authorities will be required to confirm that every school has completed the checklist and that safety plans have been updated to reflect these updated guidelines by February 26, 2021.
- All schools will also post updated plans publicly.

What about the new app?

- One of the most important factors to keeping schools safe is a daily screening for any COVID-19 symptoms, and that's why daily health checks continue to be required. To support daily screening, a new K-12 health-checker app has been developed for students and their families and can be found at:
<https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca>
- The K-12 Daily Health Check website and app is an easy way to decide if your child should attend school based on their symptoms. It includes current health guidelines and offers an age-appropriate user-experience for K to 12 students.
- You can also find the B.C. K-12 Daily Check App at the following addresses:
- Apple iStore
 - <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/bc-k-12-daily-health-checker/id1547334827>
- Google Play Store
 - <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.qp.k12App>

Communications Situation Report - February 5, 2021

From : Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>

To: GCPE Comm Directors <PABDirectors@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>, GCPE Executive (HQ) <PABExec@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>, GCPE Comm Managers <GCPECM@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>

Cc: EMBC Executive <EMBCEXEC@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>, Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>, Lawrie, Hannah GCPE:EX <Hannah.Lawrie@gov.bc.ca>, EMBC PECC Liaison 1 EMBC:EX <pecc.lia1@gov.bc.ca>, s.17, Samadi, Talieh FIN:EX <Talieh.Samadi@gov.bc.ca>, LP PREM Directors <PREMDIR@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca>, Godlonton, Brian EMBC:EX <Brian.Godlonton@gov.bc.ca>, Copeland, Kimberly GCPE:EX <Kimberly.Copeland@gov.bc.ca>, Allen, Jackie PREM:EX <Jackie.Allen@gov.bc.ca>, Kingsford, Douglas HLTH:EX <Douglas.Kingsford@gov.bc.ca>, Devine, Heather PSA:EX <Heather.Devine@gov.bc.ca>, Grieve, Chandler GCPE:EX <Chandler.Grieve@gov.bc.ca>, Smith, Devon GCPE:EX <Devon.P.Smith@gov.bc.ca>, Brandt, Alissa GCPE:EX <Alissa.Brandt@gov.bc.ca>, Howlett, Tim GCPE:EX <Tim.Howlett@gov.bc.ca>, Marriott, Sarah GCPE:EX <Sarah.Marriott@gov.bc.ca>, Sanderson, Melanie PSSG:EX <Melanie.Sanderson@gov.bc.ca>, Maartman, William PSSG:EX <William.Maartman@gov.bc.ca>, Gostelow, Tara GCPE:EX <Tara.Gostelow@gov.bc.ca>, Richards, Tara R EMBC:EX <Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca>, Cunnings, Ian EMBC:EX <Ian.Cunnings@gov.bc.ca>, Fiala, Tony EMBC:EX <Tony.Fiala@gov.bc.ca>, Wainwright, Ryan EMBC:EX <Ryan.Wainwright@gov.bc.ca>, Morrison, Andrew EMBC:EX <Andrew.Morrison@gov.bc.ca>, Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>, Douglas, Andrew PSSG:EX <Andrew.Douglas@gov.bc.ca>, McCabe, Melissa EMBC:EX <Melissa.McCabe@gov.bc.ca>, Williams, Susan GCPE:EX <Susan.Williams@gov.bc.ca>, Finkel, Paul PREM:EX <Paul.Finkel@gov.bc.ca>

Hi all,

Please find below the Communications Situation Report for February 5. Updates are in RED.

Thanks,

Jordan Turner

Communications Director | EMBC

Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre

Phone: (236) 478-0210 Cell: (250) 896-1928

Emergency Management BC Communications Sit Report Daily Summary

Date: February 5, 2021

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COVID-19 Overview

- Number of confirmed cases in BC: 69,716 (471 new)
 - 16,042 (+108) Vancouver Coastal Health

- 41,503 (+208) Fraser Health
- 1783 (+28) Island Health
- 6569 (+56) Interior Health
- 3681 (+71) Northern Health
- 138 people who reside outside Canada
- Active cases: 4423 (-24)
- Deaths: 1246 (6 new)
- 253 (-4) are in hospital – 70 (-6) in ICU/CCU
- Recovered: 62,567 (+489)

News Releases

- Provincial
 - JERI: Minister's statement on January Labour Force Survey results
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021JERI0011-000214>
 - AEST: Reskilling program helps British Columbians return to work
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021AEST0010-000211>
 - Dr. Henry and Minister Dix Joint Statement
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021HLTH0012-000221>
- Federal
 - Remarks from the Chief Public Health Officer
<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/02/remarks-from-the-chief-public-health-officer-on-covid-19-february-5-2021.html>
 - More support for tourism and other small businesses experiencing COVID-19 losses
<https://www.canada.ca/en/western-economic-diversification/news/2021/02/more-support-for-tourism-and-other-small-businesses-experiencing-covid-19-related-losses-across-western-canada.html>
 - Canada invests \$18 million in virtual health care services in B.C.
<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2021/02/government-of-canada-invests-18-million-to-virtual-health-care-services-in-british-columbia.html>

News Conferences

Prime Minister Availability (8:30 a.m.)

Prime Minister

- In the past weeks, we've seen that the number of new cases has continued to drop
- But can't let down our guard, especially with new variants
- Many provinces are getting ready to ease up on restrictions, want to update on how we're fighting COVID
- **Vaccine distribution**
 - The temporary shipment delays are a hurdle, but one we're ready for
 - We knew short term delays would be a [possibility so we planned accordingly
 - People are tired and want to know when this will be over – when the vaccines will come
 - That's why there's lots of anxiety and noise going on right now
 - I can assure you, we're on track
 - **We said we'd get 6 million doses in Q1, and we're on track for that by the end of March**
 - Companies have assured me that they will meet their contractual obligations to deliver those doses
 - **We will get everyone vaccinated by September**
 - I know we're all tired and anxious – we're working every single day to ensure as many vaccines as possible come asap
 - But we're still very much on track to get those 6 million doses by end of March

- COVAX – When wealthier companies invest in COVAX, half those doses are for Canadians and half are for lower income countries
- To beat this virus anywhere, we have to beat it everywhere
- Yesterday we had our 26th first minister's meeting – spoke of vaccines
- Also prepping for a faster rollout of vaccines to begin in April
- Expecting 20 million doses from vaccines already approved – will be adjusted upwards as we add more vaccines
- **Travel and borders**
 - Last week we announced new measures for international travel
 - **Also looking for ways to further strengthen land border measures and will have more to announce on this soon**
- COVID rapid tests will also be an efficient way to prevent outbreaks
- I strongly encourage provinces and territories to use them
- Speaks about supports they've already provided for the economy
- Approved the request for federal assistance for FN in Northern Manitoba

Dr. Henry and Minister Dix Availability – Modelling and Orders (10:30 a.m.)

- 3 p.m. today: written statement with updated numbers.
- Monday – in person briefing at 3 p.m.

Dr. Henry

Modeling:

- Epidemiology:
 - Geographic distribution – shows more cases in North/Interior, where we hadn't previously seen
 - By local health area, now that numbers are increased, we can present this data without identifying individuals.
 - No part of B.C. has been spared.
 - We've seen decreased activity in Fraser Health/Surrey area.
- Profile of cases over last week:
 - 3K new cases this week
 - 108 ppl newly hospitalized
 - Epidemic curve peaked in November. It has come down, despite blip in January.
 - We have now flattened and slowly started to decrease.
- Epidemic curve:
 - Repeats: we have plateaued and have started to decrease.
 - Some cases related to int'l travel – variants of concern have led to increased transmission in some areas of the world (UK, Ireland, Portugal).
 - Important to manage/prevent repeated importations.
- Daily case count by age:
 - 20-29 age group – most frequent transmission.
 - Then: 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 10-19, 60-69, 70-79, 0-9, 80+
 - Transmission happening in:
 - Social gatherings
 - Workplaces (sometimes quite large)
 - There have been peaks over winter/Christmas break but that is starting to go down.
 - Important to note, transmission is still going down while school is back in.
 - Lower transmission in people over 80+ is great news, we're protecting those people.
- Daily Case Rate, Testing Rate, Percent Positivity by Health Authority
 - We are not seeing accelerated transmission in school age children.
 - Highest is 19-40-year age group.
 - Seeing steady decrease in transmission rates with high testing in people over age 80.
 - Next slide - reflection of how health care system is being impacted by pandemic.
- Hospital and Critical Care Census
 - Shows dramatic impact pandemic has had in Northern Health.
- Percentage distribution of cases, hospitalization, ICU admissions and death by age (Jan. 15-23)
 - Shows that people most at-risk of hospitalization, death is older demographic.

- Underlines need to care for seniors, elders, to take pressure off health care system so we can care for everyone.
- Kids under the age of 10 still underrepresented – reinforces that young people are much less likely to be infected or have severe illness.
- School-aged children (5-12 and 13-18 years old)
 - 5-12 years old in particular under-represented – fewer than 10% of cases overall.
 - We see a decrease in cases once school starts.
- Dynamic Compartmental Modeling: Recent Trends
 - Reproductive rate – back down below 1.
 - Relatively stable or declining in all health authorities, but remains close to 1.
- Potential future:
 - We're on a good trajectory but it could change quickly.
 - We could see rapid transmission if we're not careful.
- Vaccines
 - 156,250 received, 145,567 administered.
 - We received some vaccine this week from Pfizer, more Moderna will be coming this weekend.
 - 19% of vaccines administered to long term care residents.
 - 87% have had first dose, 15% 2nd.
 - Target: about 39,000.
 - 205 adverse events following immunization (AEFI reports)
 - 14 AEFI reports for every 10,000 doses administered
 - 55 classified as serious (ie. anaphylaxis)
 - Some reported events happen after vaccination but are likely not caused by the vaccine.
- Variants of concern:
 - Still rare in B.C.
 - Whole genome sequencing is best way to confirm variants of concern.
 - BC generates 750 genomes/week.
 - Screening for key mutations – need to confirm positives with sequencing.
 - B.C. can screen 1000s of samples/week.
 - UK variant – higher transmissibility and potentially more severe illness.
 - Since Dec. 1, BC has sequenced ~4,500 cases, variants of concern detected in 28 cases.
 - Of UK – B.1.1.7 – 14 cases had history of travel – UK, Dubai, Ireland.
 - 5 cases close contacts of people who travelled.
 - Of South Africa – B.1.351 – 8 cases were acquired locally, in 5 cases we don't know where they acquired it.
 - 1 case was acquired through travel.
 - We don't appear to see widespread variants in B.C. yet, but we're stepping up surveillance, watching closely.

Comments/Orders

- We are seeing some encouraging signs.
- Our efforts are working, through individual and collective efforts the reproductive number is below 1, where we need to keep it.
- We are bending our curve, but we need to protect the progress we have made.
- We need to use this time to buy ourselves more time to get immunization program back on track.
- We only need look around to see how severe impact can be if we don't have a buffer in health care capacity.
- It's our time to make it happen.
- **For now: keeping PHO Orders on gathering and events in place.**
 - **Will continually review and reconsider based on incidence and prevalence of virus, new info about transmission, progress of vaccination supply and immunization program.**
- Just a slight increase in contacts can quickly counteract all our progress and work, especially with info about more transmissible variants.
- Seeing one friend outside of our household or going to one Birthday party could undo this all.
- We need a smooth, flat past to the finish, with few, if any hurdles. We're not quite there yet but we're getting closer every day.

- Each holiday/occasion this month (Superbowl, Lunar New Year, Valentine's Day): it's an important opportunity to allow virus to spread or slow it down more. No matter where we are, the choice is ours right now to make the difference.
- **We want these orders to be lifted – as we look toward end of this month, these data will tell us if more action required or if we can begin to ease restrictions in place.**
- **Looking ahead to the end of the month – if we continue to hold the line/reduce transmission, things will ease up, we will be able to do more things.**
 - We are working with ViaSport and we can start to put plans in place to get youth sport up and running by the end of the month, we can prepare to resume faith services (with plans in place to keep everyone safe) and resume some important social interactions in a moderate way. We might be able to have Safe Six or bubble.
- We need to continue holding the line today, tomorrow, this weekend and next.
- Spring is coming, summer is coming. We need to get there by minimizing the impact on our communities now, and we need to do that by being kind, calm, safe.

Minister Dix

- There have been 547 Whistler cases since start of January, only two of these cases have led to hospitalization.
 - Almost all cases from social transmission.
 - Working with Whistler.
 - Action plan forthcoming from tourism.
- Today's modeling acknowledges we've made a difference, ie. in Fraser Health.
- We bent our curve last spring, saw COVID fight back. Now we have vaccines. But new variants have potential to make us sick.
- COVID-19 isn't giving up, neither can we.
- Hold steady to stop the spread – wash hands, mask wearing, staying home when sick saves lives.

Media Summary

COVID-19

Trudeau - COVID-19 vaccine rollout

Global News: BC 1 (Vancouver)

2021-02-05 09:00

Copyright

Tam - COVID-19 vaccine rollout

Global News: BC 1 (Vancouver)

2021-02-05 09:40

Copyright

Dix/Henry - COVID-19 update

CKNW (Vancouver)

2021-02-05 12:00

Copyright

Helmer - COVID-19 paramedic study

CFAX (Victoria)

CFAX Adam Stirling

2021-02-04 10:06

Copyright

Copyright

Kirby-Yung - illegal nightclub bust

CKWX (Vancouver)

News 1130

2021-02-05 08:03

Copyright

Stone - e-commerce online grant

CHNL (Kamloops)

2021-02-05 10:03

Copyright

Duranleau - McLeod Lake lockdown

CBYG (CBC Prince George)
CBC Daybreak North
2021-02-05 07:20
Copyright

Ferrao - COVID job losses
CBU (CBC Vancouver)
2021-02-05 12:01
Copyright

Crooks/Kwan - COVID-19 protocols
CBU (CBC Vancouver)
CBC BC Today
2021-02-05 12:09
Copyright

Dix/Henry - Whistler COVID cases
CKNW (Vancouver)
2021-02-05 12:31
Copyright

Key Messages:

We will only be posting updated messaging that is produced each day. Please reach out directly if you need something specific that is not listed here.

Provincial Health Officer Province-wide Restrictions

- The risk of spread of COVID-19 remains extremely high, and new cases and clusters continue to emerge both here in British Columbia and around the world.
- We must continue to do all we can to protect our province and we ask everyone in British Columbia to do the same.
- With this in mind, the current Provincial Health Officer orders on all gatherings and events are being kept in place. The same requirements, including gatherings in people's homes and in public venues, **avoiding non-essential travel** and sports activities continue to apply.
- **These orders help stop the spread of COVID-19** and enable our health-care system, schools and essential workplaces to continue to stay open, which is important for all of us.
- **Right now we need** to buy ourselves some time; to get our immunization program fully on track and **reduce the potential for new COVID-19 variants to spread in our province**. This will allow us to better respond to any surge **in cases of** concern quickly. And, we need only look around us to see how severe the impact can be if we don't have the time to learn and prepare.
- We need to stay on the path we have been on so far in 2021 and remember that one or two superspreading people in our connections, or a slight increase in our contact with others can quickly counteract all of that work. Seeing one more friend, having one birthday party with those outside our household is all that it would take.
- That is why, no matter how tired we may be, we must redouble our efforts now. We can all look forward to the end that is in sight, but we must all act now if we want to get there sooner.
- Each holiday and occasion this month – Super Bowl, Lunar New Year, Family Day or Valentine's Day – is an opportunity for us to either allow the virus to spread or to slow it down even more. The choice is ours to make.
- We want to get to the days of fewer restrictions. As we look to the **weeks and** month ahead, the data will tell us if more action is required or if we can start to ease the restrictions.
- Staying small, staying local, with fewer new cases, outbreaks, severe illness and deaths are the signs that we are through the hard push that we are on right now.
- Our focus with COVID-19 is to understand the risks: where, how and with whom transmission is occurring, and based on this information, put measures in place to protect everyone in the province.
- We need to keep our social interactions low right now to put the brakes on the virus and doing so will require a sustained effort by all of us.
- Our priority objective remains, we must all reduce our in-person social interactions as much as possible to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
- We know the second surge continues to put a strain on our health-care system, our workplaces and us all. We need to ease this pressure so we can continue to manage the virus in our province.
- These **restrictions** focus mainly on social gatherings, travel, indoor group physical activities and workplace safety, all over the province.
- Right now, it is very important that everyone in British Columbia keep their social interactions, extracurricular activities and travel low.
- The goal of our COVID-19 response is to maintain capacity within our health-care system, to protect those who are most vulnerable and to keep as much as possible going in our communities.
- Now is the time to stay small, stay local and do your part – at home, work, school and in your community.
- More information on the province-wide restrictions is available here: gov.bc.ca/covidrestrictions