

# COVID-19: BC's Immunization Plan

- Prepared for BC Ministry of Health
- January 22, 2021



Stay Informed Via These Resources:

[gov.bc.ca/Covid-19](https://gov.bc.ca/Covid-19) | [bccdc.ca](https://bccdc.ca) | 1-888-COVID19

Symptom Self-Assessment:

[covid19.thrive.health](https://covid19.thrive.health)



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA

# BC's COVID-19 Immunization Plan

*BC's Strategy to Roll-Out  
The Largest Immunization Program  
in the Province's History*

# Overview

Today we are outlining BC's plan to roll out the largest immunization plan in the province's history between April and September making the COVID-19 vaccine available to all eligible people living in BC who want to be vaccinated.

4.3 million eligible people, 2 doses = 8.6 million vaccinations.

We will do this **based on your age**, starting with our oldest citizens first who are most at risk - through to our young adults.

Today we are setting out the approximate time of when you can expect to be vaccinated.

## Overview *(Continued)*

We will be establishing clinics across 172 communities that make up BC.

Clinics will be set up in March by health authorities in partnership with local communities, municipalities, businesses and volunteers to make this a province-wide effort.

There will be mobile sites as well and where necessary, home visits to support those who are unable to go to clinics.

We will be undertaking a province-wide communication effort to keep you informed about the clinics and in March we will start pre-registering and then setting up appointments based on your age which you will be able to do through your mobile device, computer or by phone.

# Summary

Government of Canada has committed that every Canadian who wants to be vaccinated against COVID-19 will have access to a vaccine before the end of **September 2021**.

To date, **more than 100,000 people** in BC have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

The COVID-19 vaccines that have been approved by Health Canada are **safe, effective and will save lives**.

To date, two vaccines have been approved for use by Health Canada (Pfizer and Moderna). Both require two doses for maximum protection – administered roughly 35 days apart.

# Vaccine Supply

Canada has secured 6M doses of the vaccine for Q1 (Jan-March) 2021 and expects to receive a further 20M doses in Q2 (April-June) and 45M doses in Q3 (July-September).

From mid-December 2020 to the end of March – BC expects to receive 792,675 doses of vaccine.

From April to the end of June – BC expects to receive approximately 2,640,000 doses of vaccine.

From July to the end of September – BC expects to receive just under 6 million doses of vaccine.

It is expected that the AstraZeneca vaccine will likely be approved sometime in Q1 2021 and be provided to the provinces and territories sometime later in Q2 2021.

# Population to be Vaccinated

BC population for 2021 = approx. 5,200,000 people.

BC population between 0 -17 years of age = approx. 900,000 people  
- not currently eligible for vaccination.

**BC population eligible for vaccination = 4,300,000 people.**

As of April 1:

- Expected that just over 4M people will still need to be vaccinated.
- Of those 4M, approx. 600,000 will require only their second dose.
- The balance of the population will require two doses.

**= Approx. 7.4M doses need administering to the population April–September.**

# The Age-Based Approach

BC's COVID-19 immunization plan is evidence-based and focused on immunizing our provinces most vulnerable to the virus first.

- The single greatest risk factor for severe illness and death from COVID-19 is increasing age.
- The risk increases exponentially over 70 years-old.

This approach increases protection for those with clinical risk factors for more severe COVID-19 illness as the prevalence of these increases with age.



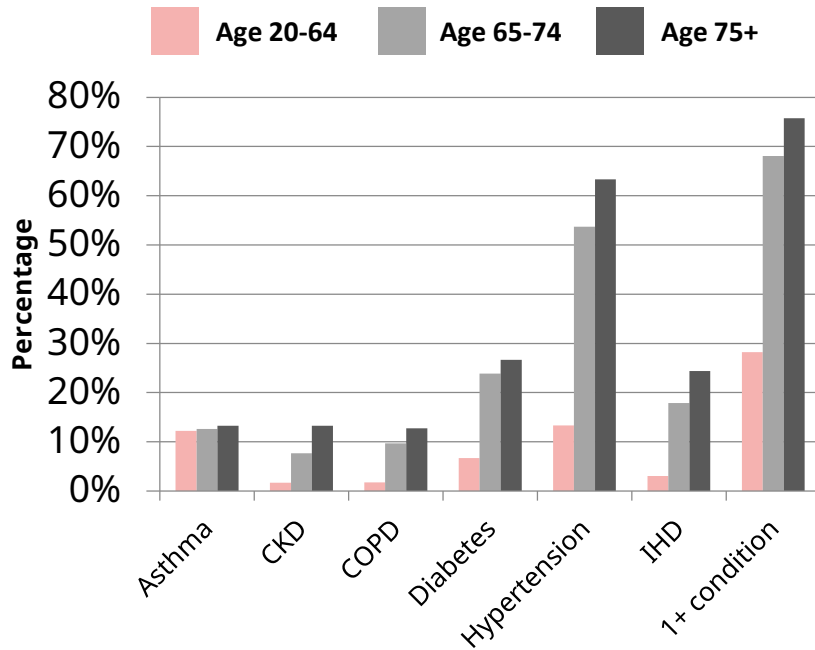
# Data Supporting The Age-Based Approach

## ***Naci Rapid Review of Key Populations for Early COVID-19 Immunization***

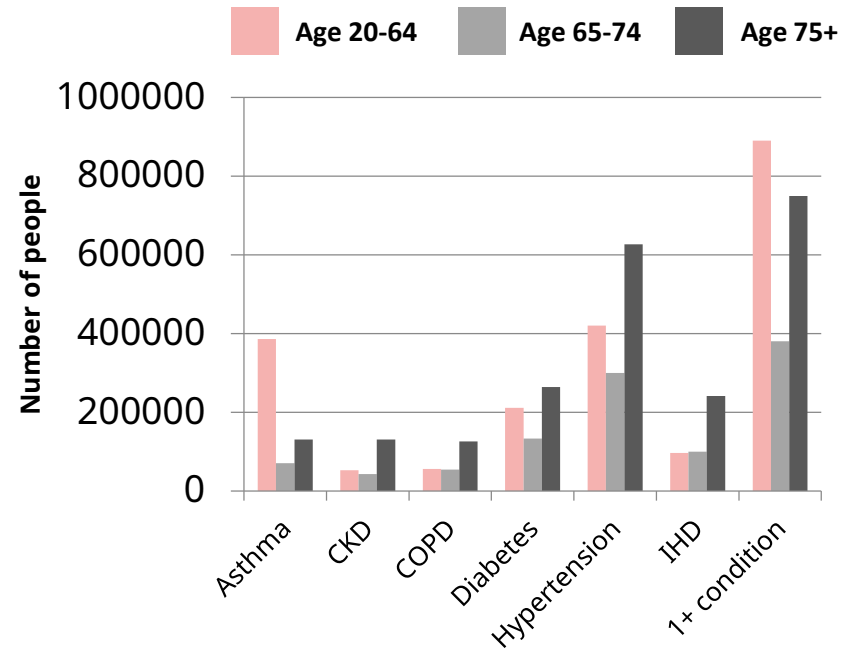
*“Adults older than 60 years have at least 5 times increased odds of hospitalization and mortality from COVID-19 compared to those aged less than 45 years. This increased risk appears to magnify for those older than 60 years, with those aged over 80 years having double the mortality risk of those aged 65-69 years.”*

# Distribution of Selected Chronic Conditions That Affect British Columbia By Age

*Proportion*



*Number of people*



# Multivariable Model: Risk Factors for Hospitalization in BC

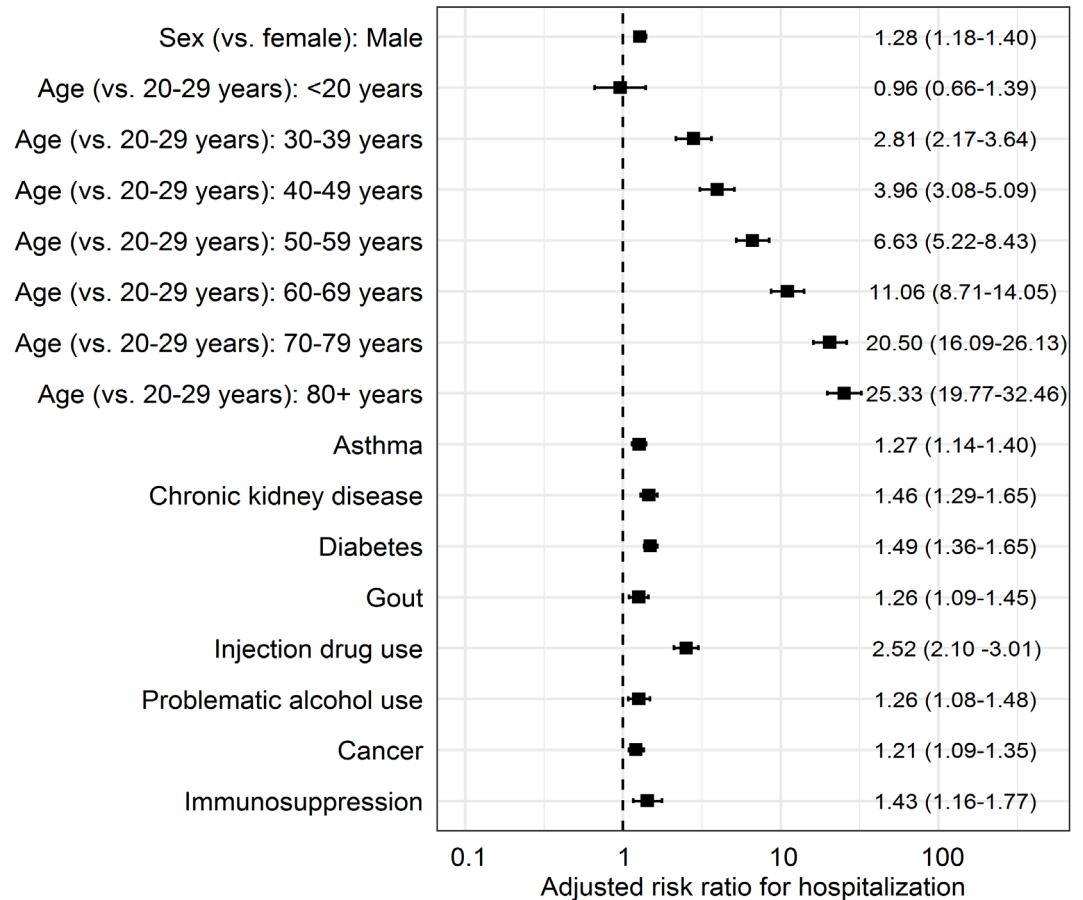
## Non-hospitalized

N = 48,288

## Hospitalized

N = 2,075

Increasing age major risk factor

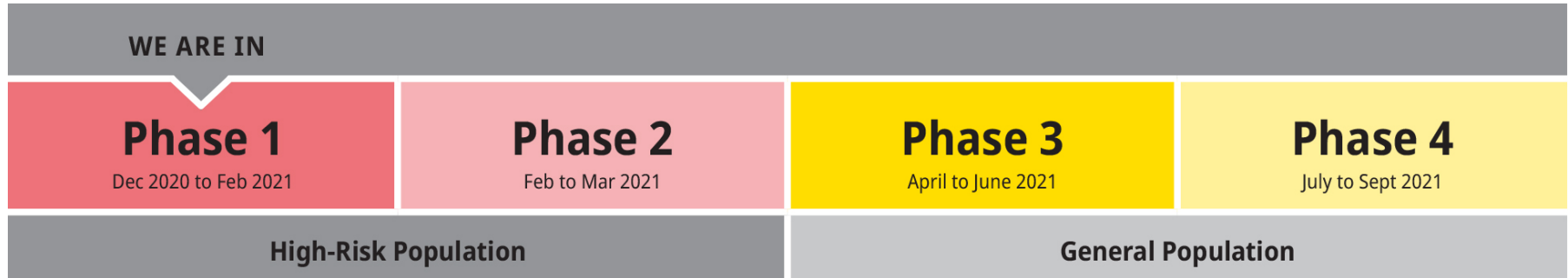


# Approximate Rounded-Up Five-Year age Cohorts in BC:

80+	246,200
75-79	181,600
70-74	273,300
65-69	322,650
60-64	364,250
55-59	369,700
50-54	342,300
45-49	318,200
40-44	330,200
35-39	370,650
30-34	379,450
25-29	359,600
18-24	460,850

# Phased Plan

- Four phases\* for immunization based on expert advice and guidance from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization, BC's Immunization Committee, and public health leadership committee.
- Based primarily on age, focusing on protecting people most susceptible to severe illness and death from COVID-19.
- Focus of Phase 1 and Phase 2 is protecting those most vulnerable to severe illness first.
- Focus of Phase 3 and 4 is on vaccinating the general public.



*\*Specific timelines are likely to change based on vaccine availability.*

# COVID-19 Immunization Plan

Phase 1 Dec 2020 to Feb 2021		Phase 2 Feb to Mar 2021		Phase 3 April to June 2021		Phase 4 July to Sept 2021	
<b>High-Risk Population</b>				<b>General Population</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residents, staff, and essential visitors to long-term care and assisted living</li> <li>Individuals assessed for and awaiting long-term care</li> <li>Hospital health care workers who may provide care for COVID-19 patients</li> <li>Remote and isolated Indigenous communities</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seniors aged 80+ who are not yet immunized</li> <li>Indigenous seniors aged 65+, Elders, and additional communities not yet immunized</li> <li>Hospital staff, community GPs and medical specialists not yet immunized</li> <li>Vulnerable populations in select congregated settings</li> <li>Staff in community home support and nursing for seniors</li> </ul>		People aged 79 to 60, in five-year increments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>79 to 75</li> <li>74 to 70</li> <li>69 to 65</li> <li>64 to 60</li> <li>People aged 69 to 16 who are clinically extremely vulnerable</li> </ul>		People aged 59 to 18, in five-year increments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>59 to 55</li> <li>54 to 50</li> <li>49 to 45</li> <li>44 to 40</li> <li>39 to 35</li> <li>34 to 30</li> <li>29 to 25</li> <li>24 to 18</li> </ul>	
Once additional vaccines are approved and become available, people between the ages of 18 and 64 who are front-line essential workers or work in specific workplaces or industries may be included in the later part of Phase 3.							
<b>The timeline for BC's COVID-19 Immunization Plan may change based on vaccine availability. Information last updated: January 19, 2021.</b>							

# Phase 1 *(Current Phase)*

## ***Timeline: December 2020 to February 2021***

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



## **Phase 1**

Dec 2020 to Feb 2021

## **Phase 2**

Feb to Mar 2021

## **Phase 3**

April to June 2021

## **Phase 4**

July to Sept 2021

# Phase 2

## *Timeline: February to March 2021*

- Seniors aged 80+ who are not immunized in phase 1.
- Indigenous (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) seniors, age 65 and over and Elders and additional Indigenous communities not immunized in Phase 1.
- Hospital staff, community GPs and medical specialists not immunized in Phase 1.
- Vulnerable populations living and working in select congregated settings.
- Staff in community home support and nurses caring for seniors.

**Phase 1**

Dec 2020 to Feb 2021

**Phase 2**

Feb to Mar 2021

**Phase 3**

April to June 2021

**Phase 4**

July to Sept 2021



# Phase 3 (General Population Immunization)

## Timeline: April to June 2021\*

People aged 79 to 60, in five-year increments (D1 first shot/D2 second shot).

- 79 to 75 (D1 – April, D2 – May)
- 74 to 70 (D1 – April, D2 – May)
- 69 to 65 (D1 – May/June, D2 – June/July)
- 64 to 60 (D1 – June, D2 – July)
- People aged 69 to 16 who are clinically extremely vulnerable (D1/D2 – April to June)
- Once additional vaccines are approved and become available, people between the ages of 18 and 64 who are front-line essential workers or work in specific workplaces or industries may be included in the later part of Phase 3.

*\*The timeline for BC's COVID-19 Immunization Plan may change based on vaccine availability.*

**Phase 1**

Dec 2020 to Feb 2021

**Phase 2**

Feb to Mar 2021

**Phase 3**

April to June 2021

**Phase 4**

July to Sept 2021

# People Deemed Clinically Extremely Vulnerable

- Solid organ transplant recipients
- People with specific cancers:
  - People with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy
  - People with lung cancer who are undergoing radical radiotherapy
  - People with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukemia, lymphoma or myeloma who are at any stage of treatment
  - People having immunotherapy or other continuing antibody treatments for cancer
  - People having other targeted cancer treatments that can affect the immune system, such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors
  - People who have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last 6 months or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs
- People with severe respiratory conditions including all cystic fibrosis, severe asthma and severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- People with rare diseases that significantly increase the risk of infections (such as severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID), homozygous sickle cell disease)
- People on immunosuppression therapies sufficient to significantly increase risk of infection (biologic modifiers, high dose steroids, AZT, cyclophosphamide)
- People who had a splenectomy (spleen removed)
- Adults with very significant developmental disabilities that increase risk (details to come)
- Adults on dialysis or with chronic kidney disease (stage 5)
- Women who are pregnant with significant heart disease, congenital or acquired
- Significant neuromuscular conditions requiring respiratory support

# Phase 4

## ***Timeline: July to September 2021\****

People aged 59 to 18, in five-year increments:  
(D1 first shot/D2 second shot).

- 59 to 55 (*D1 – July, D2 August*)
- 54 to 50 (*D1 – July, D2 August*)
- 49 to 45 (*D1 – July, D2 August*)
- 44 to 40 (*D1 – July, D2 August*)
- 39 to 35 (*D1 – July/August, D2 August/Sept.*)
- 34 to 30 (*D1 –August, D2 Sept.*)
- 29 to 25 (*D1 –August/Sept, D2 Sept*)
- 24 to 18 (*D1 - D2 Sept*)

*\*The timeline for BC's COVID-19 Immunization Plan may change based on vaccine availability.*

## Phase 1

Dec 2020 to Feb 2021

## Phase 2

Feb to Mar 2021

## Phase 3

April to June 2021

## Phase 4

July to Sept 2021

# Registration Process

- Starting in mid- to-late February, Health Authorities will be reaching out to seniors 80 years and older and Indigenous seniors 65+ and Indigenous Elders to provide information on how to pre-register for immunization appointments. We will be providing an update on this process in the coming weeks.
- Starting in late-February, the province will launch a communication campaign that will inform residents of the key features of Phase 3 of the vaccination program:
  - When they can expect to be vaccinated;
  - How and when they can pre-register; and
  - How they access the vaccination clinics.
- The ability to enable pre-registration will assist the Province with supply management and clinic planning to ensure residents are vaccinated in a safe and timely manner.
- You can pre-register two to four weeks before you are eligible to receive a vaccine.
- Pre-registration for 79-75 aged residents in BC opens March 2021.
- Pre-register either online or by phone.

# Partnerships

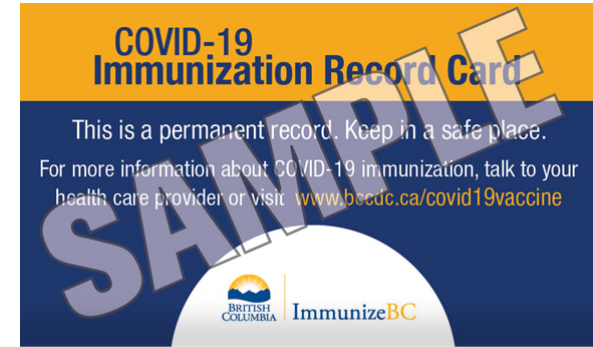
- Leverage of partnerships with the other ministries of the provincial government, local governments, non-profit groups and the private sector will be necessary to support the plan.
- Leveraging facilities for mass clinics from local governments and First Nations governments, networks to reach sub-populations requiring special support by other ministries, volunteers from civil society organizations, and other services from partners in the private sector will be important parts of the plan.
- BC has a legacy of relationships and experienced people from all over the province who were involved in planning and implementing the 2010 Olympic and Paralympic Games which can be leveraged for this critical strategy.

# Vaccination Clinics

- Immunization clinics that will be used in Phase 3 and 4 are being organized in 172 communities in BC and overseen by local health authorities.
- Clinics will be held at large centres including:
  - School gymnasiums;
  - Arenas;
  - Convention halls; and
  - Community halls.
- Mobile clinics in self-contained vehicles will be available for some rural communities and for people who are homebound due to mobility issues.
- Immunization clinics details will be made available before Phase 3.

# Proof of Vaccine

- Residents will have the options to receive paper and digital copies of their vaccine record.
- Residents will be provided a paper record of each administered dose at time of immunization and will also sign up for the Provincial Health Gateway to access their official digital “immunization card.”
- All individuals receiving vaccination will be informed that their vaccination record will be stored in the Provincial data-base accessible by both public health and their own physician and themselves.



Front of Sample

The image shows the back of the COVID-19 Immunization Record Card, which is a data entry form. It features a dark blue header with "Name:" on the left and "Date of Birth:" on the right, both with white input fields. Below this, the form is divided into two columns by a vertical orange line, labeled "DOSE 1" and "DOSE 2" at the top. Each column has four rows of white input fields for the following fields: "Date given:", "Product name:", "Lot #:", and "Provider or clinic:". A large, semi-transparent "SAMPLE" watermark is overlaid diagonally across the form.

Back of Sample

# Community Immunity

Community immunity could be reached if a large majority of people in British Columbia choose to be immunized against COVID-19. When you choose to be vaccinated against COVID-19, you are helping save lives by protecting your family and entire community from the virus.

- Lifting current restrictions will be based on many factors, including:
- Number of people immunized and level of community immunity;
- Number of COVID-19 cases in the province; and
- Health care system capacity.



# COVID-19: BC's Immunization Plan

- Prepared for BC Ministry of Health
- January 22, 2021



Stay Informed Via These Resources:

[gov.bc.ca/Covid-19](https://gov.bc.ca/Covid-19) | [bccdc.ca](https://bccdc.ca) | 1-888-COVID19

Symptom Self-Assessment:

[covid19.thrive.health](https://covid19.thrive.health)



BRITISH  
COLUMBIA