

What are the benefits of the vaccine?

Getting one of the approved vaccines is the best way to protect yourself against COVID-19, which is a serious and sometimes fatal virus. In clinical trials, those who received a vaccine were less likely to become sick with COVID-19. When you get immunized, you help to protect others as well.

Where can I find information about Phase 2 COVID-19 immunization clinics?

As of March 8, eligible seniors can call a dedicated Interior Health phone line and make an appointment to receive their first-dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. The phone line, **1-877-740-7747**, will be open from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m., PST, seven days a week.

Please call in according to the groupings below:

- **MARCH 8:** Seniors born in or before 1931 (**90 years+**) and **Aboriginal peoples** born in or before 1956 (**65 years+**) and **Elders** may call to book their vaccine appointment.
- **MARCH 15:** Seniors born in or before 1936 (**85 years+**) may call to book their vaccine appointment.
- **MARCH 22:** Seniors born in or before 1941 (**80 years+**) may call to book their vaccine appointment.

If an eligible individual has difficulty booking themselves, a family member, friend or community advocate can register for them. You can find more information about the phase two vaccine rollout for the public, including how to book appointments on our website (news.interiorhealth.ca/news/covid-19-vaccines/).

Who are the health-care workers who are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in Phase 2?

Health-care workers eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in Phase 2 include:

- Staff and medical staff who work in acute care in patient care settings, including support services;
- Interior Health staff who work in community settings and have interaction with clients;
- All community general practitioners (GPs), nurse practitioners, medical specialists, dentists, allied health and their clinic staff;
- All health-care workers who were eligible in Phase 1, and who have not yet been immunized.

How do eligible health-care workers make an appointment to receive the vaccine?

Interior Health is working with the provincial government, and through our networks and partners in the community to share information with eligible health-care workers in the next two weeks.

Directions to book your appointment if you are an eligible health-care worker will be available on the Interior Health website by Mar. 22 at (news.interiorhealth.ca/news/covid-19-vaccines/).

In addition to the groups listed above, who else is eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine in Phase 2?

In March and April, COVID-19 immunizations are being provided to people receiving long-term home support, and people who receive services through Community Living B.C. We are also working with the provincial government and local partners to provide immunizations to residents and staff in:

- Independent living
- Seniors supportive living settings
- Shelters
- Adult group homes
- Correctional facilities

Do people who have been immunized still need to follow provincial health orders and guidelines?

Yes. The Provincial Health Officer (PHO) orders and guidelines remain in place for everyone, even if they have received the vaccine.

Do people who have been COVID-positive still need to be immunized?

Yes. People who have had COVID-19 should be immunized with the vaccine, but they are asked to wait 90 days after the end of the infectious period.

I have already received the first dose of the vaccine, when and how will I know it is time for the second dose?

On March 1, 2021, B.C.'s Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, noted we will be moving to 16 week intervals between the first and second dose of the vaccine. You will be contacted when it is time to schedule your second dose.

What if someone misses their week for vaccination booking?

They will still be able to call and book an appointment. The goal is to get vaccine into everyone who would like it. Once an individual is eligible to receive the vaccine, they can book their appointment at any time.

Does IH need more immunizers to support the vaccination rollout?

Yes, Interior Health is currently asking qualified clinicians (including retired physicians, pharmacists and nurses) who are interested in being immunizers and supporting this vaccination campaign to submit their name through an online form:

<https://ihimmunizers.myhealthinfo.ca/>

Over the coming days and weeks, you will see more communications about preparations underway for Phase 3 and 4 of our vaccine rollout, including recruiting staff and volunteers.

Now that staff and residents of long-term care and assisted living sites have received the vaccine, can we expect visitor restrictions to be eased? What about in hospitals where staff are immunized?

Everyone is looking forward to being able to increase visits across all of our care settings, because we know how important they are to people, their families and loved ones. However, it is important we continue to follow the provincial directions until the time new visitor guidelines are implemented. Decisions about visitor guidelines in long-term care, assisted living and acute care will be made by the Ministry of Health.

Interior Health is working with First Nations and the Métis Nation British Columbia to improve cultural safety in all areas of health care, including at COVID-19 vaccine clinics.