

**From:** Ernie Baatz <ernie@spectrumsociety.org>

**Date:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 at 9:26 AM

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**Subject:** Covid-19 Updates - November 9, 2021 - 3rd Shots and Booster Shots

## **Updates to the Provincial COVID-19 Immunization Plan**

More people in B.C. will start to receive invitations for a COVID-19 booster shot as the Province continues its COVID-19 immunization plan, prioritizing B.C.'s elderly and most at-risk through to the December holiday.

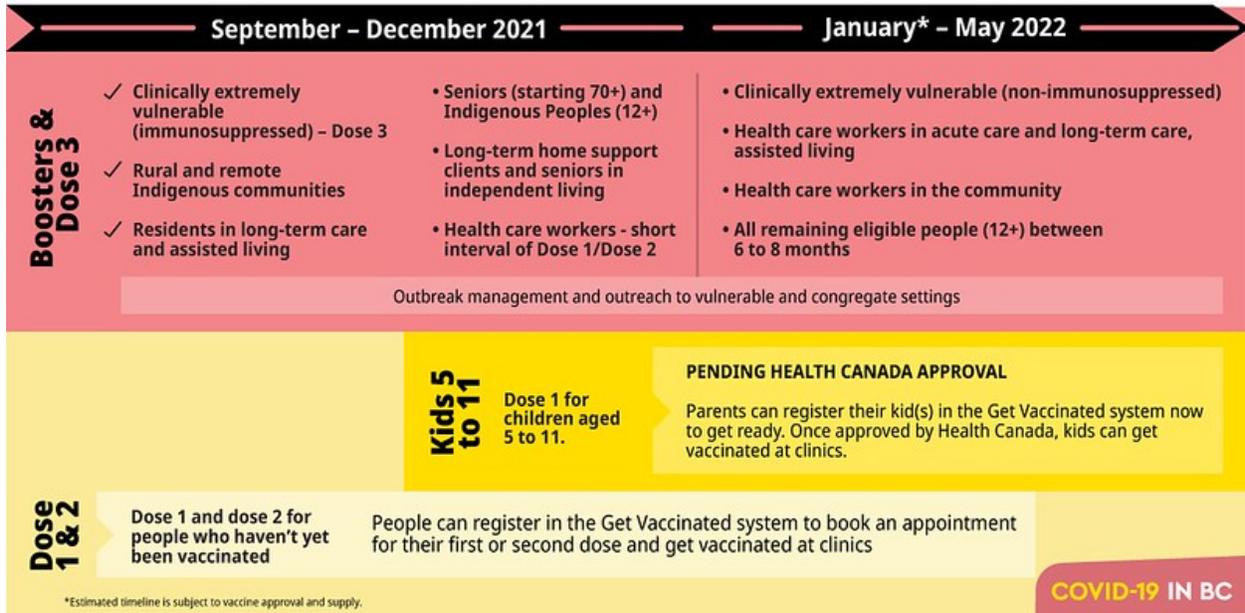
The plan expands to include all British Columbians 12+ beginning in January 2022.

People 70+ who are registered in the Get Vaccinated System, as well as Indigenous Peoples 12+, will soon be invited to book their booster, which will help maintain protection against COVID-19. Booster doses are underway for other priority groups, including residents of long-term care and assisted living facilities and vulnerable people living in shelters or high-risk congregate settings, and are in use as part of outbreak management.

“Our vaccines are highly effective. However, we are starting to see a gradual decline in protection over time. As a result, we are taking the proactive step of expanding boosters to everyone in our province,” said Dr. Bonnie Henry, provincial health officer. “We’re starting with the people who need them most to continue to do all we can to keep people in B.C. safe from this virus and its variants.”

As was the case with the first and second doses, the timing of invitations is based on risk and age (beginning oldest to youngest), with an interval of between six to eight months from the second dose.

# COVID-19 Immunization Plan – Next steps



To get your first or second dose of the Covid-19 vaccine, register on BC’s Get Vaccinated site:  
<https://www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca/s/>

In the Vancouver Coastal Health region, there are vaccine clinics daily (Vancouver, Richmond, North Shore, Sunshine Coast):  
<http://www.vch.ca/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine#clinics>

In the Fraser Health region, you can find local vaccine clinics here (Burnaby, Coquitlam, Surrey, Langley):  
<https://www.fraserhealth.ca/health-topics-a-to-z/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccine/registration-support#.YYqczC-96aA>

More information on the updated Covid-19 Immunization Plan here:  
<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021HLTH0189-002044>

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## Staying Safe and Healthy

1. **Get Vaccinated**
2. **Stay Home if you are sick – call 811 and get tested if directed**
3. **Wear a Mask in indoor spaces**
4. **Wash your Hands**
5. **Keep your Distance**
6. **It’s always Safer Outdoors**

Here is a link to the latest BC Government update – November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021:

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021HLTH0069-002125>

In this update, they provide the numbers and I think this set of numbers provides an important insight: Past two weeks, cases hospitalized per 100,000 population after adjusting for age (Oct. 22 to Nov. 4)

- Not vaccinated: 58.0
- Partially vaccinated: 14.7
- Fully vaccinated: 3.0

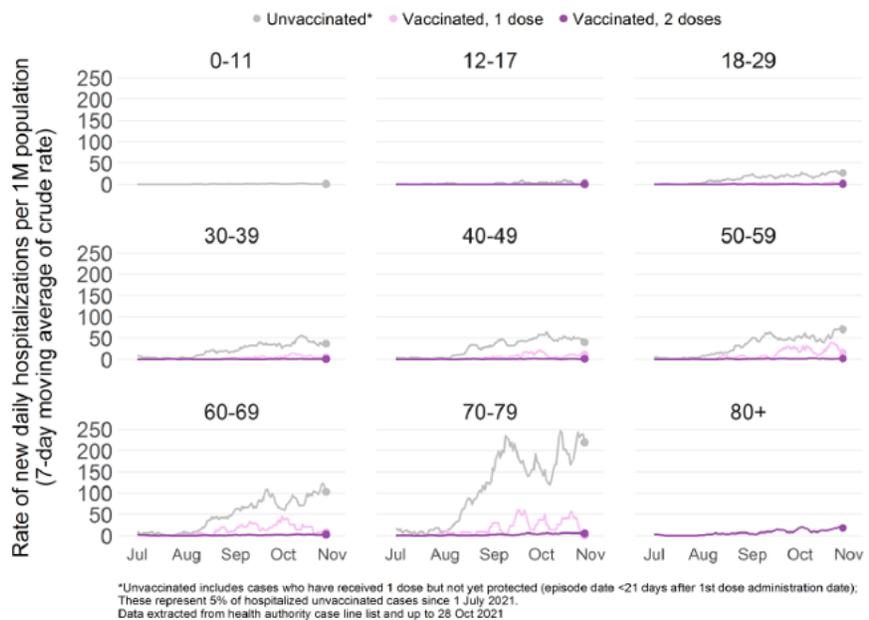
This tells us that being vaccinated greatly reduces the risk of hospitalization if you get Covid-19.

On Thursday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Bonnie Henry presented the updated modelling information on Covid-19 for the Province:

[https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/04.11.21\\_Covid19Modelling.pdf](https://news.gov.bc.ca/files/04.11.21_Covid19Modelling.pdf)

Here is one of the slides:

**COVID-19  
hospitalization  
rate by vaccination  
status and age,  
July 1 - Oct 28, 2021**



This graph shows that Age and Vaccine Status are the two greatest risk factors in hospitalization of people with Covid-19.

## **30, 40 and 50 Year Olds Should Not Be Dying At This Level – Times Colonist**

<https://www.timescolonist.com/local-news/thirty-40-and-50-year-olds-shouldnat-be-dying-at-this-level-a-day-in-the-icu-4732317>

If vulnerable seniors in care homes were the face of the pandemic's first wave, young unvaccinated people intubated in critical-care wards are the hallmark of the fourth. On any given day in B.C., the large majority of people in hospital intensive care units are unvaccinated. On Nov. 5, 59 of 64 COVID patients age 59 and younger in ICUs in the province were unvaccinated.

### **Risk Assessments**

An important consideration when people have questions about the risks of the vaccine, is to consider the risk of serious illness and hospitalization due to Covid-19. The Delta variant is far more infectious than the first Covid-19 we experienced in 2020, and causes more severe illness in more age groups than the first Covid-19.

At Spectrum we are continuing to assess the risks to the people we support and our teams and developing mitigation strategies to reduce risks. Many people are feeling safer due to vaccinations and lower case counts and returning to some of their favourite community activities such as restaurants and movies. The basic safety strategies still apply:

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Let us know if you have any questions or need any assistance.

**Ernie Baatz**

Executive Director

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Express yourself. Build your network. Find your voice.

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## **Be Calm, Be Kind, Be Safe**

Unceded Coast Salish Territories of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.