

Subject: Covid-19 Updates - April 12, 2022 - Layers of Protection
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B.C. takes next steps in COVID-19 response

<https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2022HLTH0112-000501>

On Tuesday, April 5th, Dr. Bonnie Henry held a press conference and described the Province's next steps in responding to the Covid-19 Pandemic:

“Today, as we continue our progress managing COVID-19, we are easing restrictions and, at the same time, taking important steps to boost our immunity and keep people safe,” said Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.'s provincial health officer. “As we all do our part – to get vaccinated, use our layers of protection and stay home when we are ill, we will continue to adjust our response as the pandemic evolves.”

Starting on Friday, April 8, 2022, at 12:01 a.m., the following changes will take place:

- Showing the BC Vaccine Card proof of vaccination to access events, services and businesses will no longer be required.
 - individual businesses and organizations can choose to continue requiring the BC Vaccine Card on their premises.
- The remainder of the Workplace Safety Order will expire, which means that businesses are transitioning back to communicable disease plans to reduce risk of all communicable disease.

What has changed?

- Vaccine Cards are no longer required by public health order. Some businesses and facilities may still decide it is important for their staff and customer safety to require the vaccine card.
- Covid 19 Safety Plans are not required by public health order. Employers are now required to follow their communicable disease plans.
- There will be weekly Covid-19 Updates from Government instead of daily reports. For example:
 - In the week of Mar. 27 - Apr. 02, there have been:
 - 1,706 new cases reported, for a total of 357,242 cases in BC
 - 193 hospitalizations, for a total of 19,897 in BC
 - 11 deaths, for a total of 3,002 in BC
- Second boosters are now being provided to people over 70, people who live in long term care homes, and people who are seriously immune-compromised.

What has remained the same?

- There is still a provincial health order requiring all Spectrum employees to be fully vaccinated.
- Spectrum requires its employees to wear a mask when they are indoors and providing support.
- Vaccines are the first and best layer of protection from serious illness due to Covid-19. Get your booster shot as soon as you are eligible. Clinically Extremely Vulnerable people (including everyone receiving CLBC funded services) are eligible for a second booster (a fourth shot) six months after their first booster shot.

Living with Covid – Safely

We all want Covid to be over, but there are still people getting sick and there will be new variants, so we all need to learn strategies to keep ourselves and others safe and healthy.

Remember the Golden Rules?



All of these are still great rules to follow.

1. **Getting vaccinated** helps your immune system fight Covid if you get it. Unvaccinated people are five times more likely to end up in hospital if they get a covid infection. More information on locations and steps to follow here: <https://www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca/s/>
2. **Respect personal space.** If you are going to be getting close to someone you don't live with, wear a mask.
3. **Follow guidelines.** At Spectrum's locations, at the office and inside people's homes, we are wearing masks. The BC Vaccine Card is still in place until April 8 for non-essential events, services and businesses.

4. **Consider people's situations and comfort levels.** Some people are comfortable meeting outside. Some people are still wearing masks when they visit other people. In the absence of broader public health mandates, we have to consider our own health and the health of others and recognize that everyone will have different ideas about what is safe for them.
5. **Stay home if sick.** If you have symptoms, you can use the covid app or call 811 to assess the symptoms. Rapid tests are now widely available. At Spectrum we have kits of five tests available for people we support, their families, and for our employees and home-share providers.

Rapid Test Kits Available

We have two brands of rapid test kits available at the Spectrum office and we have over 400 kits, so please put in a request at the office or drop by to pick one up. You can also get one kit every 30 days at your neighbourhood pharmacy. Here is a link to a list of pharmacies with kits available:

<https://www.bcpharmacy.ca/news/covid-19-rapid-test-kits-pharmacies>

Rapid Response (5 tests in one box):

Instructions are in the box and here on the BC CDC website:

http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID-19_Tests/POC_screening/BTNX_test_guidelines.pdf



Artron (5 tests in one box):

Instructions are in the box, and here on the BC CDC website:

http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID-19_Tests/POC_screening/RapidTestInstructions_Artron.pdf



As well, from Red Cross and the Government of Canada, we have a supply of KN95 masks. They come in boxes of 20 masks and fit closer to your face with straps that go around your head instead of around your ears. You can get these at the office as well.



