

COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

Northern Health COVID-19 vaccines for children ages 5-11

The [National Advisory Committee on Immunization \(NACI\)](#) has authorized Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for kids aged 5-11. The following are resources to learn more about the COVID-19 vaccine and kids:



- In this [fun and informative CBC video](#), Dr. Abdu Sharkawy answers kids' questions about the [COVID-19 vaccine](#).
- In this [animated story](#), follow Jesse as they learn about the vaccine.
- Here is a [video](#) featuring Danièle Behn Smith, the Metis and French Canadian Deputy Provincial Health Officer of Indigenous Health. Here, she answers the question "Should I get my child vaccinated?"
- [FAQs](#) from ImmunizeBC
- [Information](#) from BCCDC website

If you are interested in having your child vaccinated, please register them in the provincial system and you will be notified when a clinic is available in your community. For more information on registering, visit the [BC COVID-19 vaccine information page](#).

Northern Health COVID-19 Booster Doses

Everyone born in 2009 or earlier (12+) will be invited to get a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, starting with people most at risk. A booster dose is an additional shot of vaccine that helps you maintain and lengthen your protection against COVID-19. When you get a booster dose, you're helping protect you and the people around you from COVID-19. To get your booking invitation, you must be registered with the [Get Vaccinated provincial registration system](#) and your immunization record must be up-to-date. Individuals will be contacted when they are eligible to book a third dose. For more information about the booster shots and when you may be available, visit the [Government of BC website](#) and the [First Nations Health Authority website](#). For specific NH COVID vaccination locations and schedules visit the [COVID-19 immunization clinical page](#).

For Your Information

United for BC Flood Response – United Way of BC (UWBC)

Many communities in BC have been battling the devastating effects of flooding and landslides. To provide immediate support those impacted UWBC has launched BC Flood Response Fund; low barrier, accessible funding for community organizations providing support to those impacted by this disaster. This funding is eligible for food, other essential goods and services, mental health support and more. For more information and to donate to the fund, visit the [UWBC Flood Response webpage](#).

Square 1 for Seniors: Social Prescribing

Non-medical services are often available in the community that may improve a senior's health and wellbeing. Making a connection to these services can be a challenge. Social prescribing allows health care professionals and services agencies to refer senior patients/clients, who may be socially isolated or at risk of frailty, to a connector who can assist them to make those connections. To learn more about Dawson Creek's program take a look at the [Better at Home e-newsletter](#).

Eliminating Food Insecurity Requires Dismantling Anti-Black Racism Article, Podcast, and Research Paper

Black households in Canada are more likely to experience inadequate or insecure access to food due to financial constraints, but little has been done to understand this disparity. This [Healthy Debate Article](#) explores a recent study, "[Black-white racial disparities in household food insecurity from 2005 to 2014, Canada](#)" which was published in the Canadian Journal of Public Health. Additionally, a podcast presentation from [PROOF Food Insecurity Policy Research](#) provides more depth information and features interviews by food security and anti-racism experts. To listen to the podcast, visit [PROOF](#).

2023 BC Adolescent Health Survey (AHS) – Community Consultations Dates: December 6 – 8, 2021

The [BC AHS](#) is a province-wide survey administered to youth in Grade 7 to 12 which gives an evidence base of youth health trends, emerging issues, and risk and protective factors for healthy development. Community consultations for the 2023 BC AHS will take place this fall and winter; they are a chance to discuss survey items people would like to see included in the 2023 survey. This includes current and emerging health issues people are seeing in their schools and communities. Upcoming consultations in northern BC are as follows: December 6 – Northern Interior; December 7 – Northeast;

December 8 – Northwest. For more information visit [McCreary Centre Society](#). To register or to schedule an additional consultation, email Karen: karen@mcs.bc.ca.

Resources (toolkits, reports, websites)

New Resource: Pregnancy and COVID-19 Vaccination

The BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC)'s COVID-19 Indigenous Knowledge Translation Working Group has developed a resource that takes up the conversation of pregnancy and COVID-19. If you are pregnant, planning to get pregnant, or breast feeding or chest feeding, getting a COVID-19 vaccine is the safest choice to protect you from a serious case of COVID-19. Follow [Emma's vaccination journey](#) to learn more about pregnancy and COVID-19 vaccination. This resource is also available in a [black and white copy](#).

Incorporating Equity into Community Planning: Quick-start Guide

Use [this printable resource](#) as a visual reference for action areas within local government, as primer for those on your team who may be new to the concept of equity in government policy and planning, or as a quick reference summarizing the more in-depth content of the [Equity Action Guide](#).

Reducing Youth Access & Exposure to Vapour Products

[This resource](#) is to support local governments across British Columbia as they work to reduce youth access and exposure to vapour products. With the rising popularity of vaping, young people have gained access to these products, and rates of youth vaping are increasing rapidly. This resource provides data about youth vaping in B.C., examples of how local governments in B.C. have used their regulatory authority to reduce youth access and exposure, and further links, reading and resources to support local governments on this topic.

Events and Learning Opportunities

Local Government Leadership Academy (LGLA) – 2022 Leadership Forum

Date: February 9 – 11, 2021

After two years and a successful 2021 virtual forum, the LGLA annual forum is back in person. This year's Forum theme is "Leadership under Pressure...Reflections on an Extraordinary Term". Often there was no script; we all wrote history as we stood together while staying apart, and collaborated to come through the events of 2020-

2021. For more information and to view the agenda, visit the [LGLA webpage](#). To register, visit the [CivicInfoBC registration page](#).

Funding Opportunities

Cannabis Micro-Funding Grant

Deadline: December 6, 2021

As part of ongoing cannabis public education and awareness efforts, Health Canada will dedicate \$100,000 in fiscal year 2021-2022, towards projects that help raise youth awareness of the health effects of cannabis. Cannabis public education micro-grant funding will be awarded to projects that help raise awareness about the health effects associated cannabis use, target youth aged 13 to 18, or target young adults aged 19 to 24. We strongly encourage applicants to target youth and young adults among LGBTQ2IA+, people of colour, and Indigenous Peoples. For more information and to apply, visit the [Government of Canada website](#).

Vaping Micro-Funding Grant

Deadline: December 6, 2021

As part of the public education campaign about the consequences of vaping, Health Canada will dedicate \$100,000 in fiscal year 2021-2022, towards projects that help raise awareness on the harms and risks of vaping product use among youth (ages 13-18). There are many types of projects and activities you can undertake to raise awareness about the health effects of cannabis or vaping. To read more about project examples, the grant itself, and to apply, visit the [Government of Canada webpage](#).

Vision Zero in Road Safety Grant Opportunity

Deadline: December 10, 2021

The British Columbia Vision Zero in Road Safety for Vulnerable Road Users Program (Vision Zero in Road Safety Program) provides funding to local governments, Indigenous community governments and non-government organizations to directly support evidence-informed road safety improvements. The goal of the program is to reduce severe injuries of vulnerable road users. Individual level grant projects are funded between \$5,000 and \$20,000 depending on the scope of the project and in alignment with the program principles, aims and objectives. Grants as large as \$20,000 may be awarded for exceptional applications. For more information visit the BC Injury Research and Prevention Unit: [BCIRPU | \(injuryresearch.bc.ca\)](#).

Coastal GasLink Legacy of Giving Fund – United Way of Northern BC **Deadline: December 20, 2021**

The Coastal GasLink Legacy of Giving Fund aims to remove barriers by providing funding to recipients to address socioeconomic issues facing their local community. The fund is administered as a partnership between United Way of Northern BC (UWNBC) and Coastal GasLink in a matter consistent with the UWNBC Mission and funding areas and Coastal GasLink's priority areas of socioeconomic challenges in Northern BC. For more information and to apply, visit [United Way of Northern BC](#).

Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Grant Program **Deadline: December 20, 2021**

The Government of BC is currently accepting applications for the Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Grant program. Registered non-profit and charitable organizations, as well as other public and private sector organizations working in partnership with a BIPOC-led non-profit society, are invited to apply for grants up to \$5,000 to support activities across the Province that build intercultural interaction, trust and understanding, or challenge racism, hate and systemic barriers. The focus is to prioritize projects that seek to reduce systemic racism, hate incidents and/or build capacity in racialized communities, with a preference for applications submitted by racialized and marginalized groups. For more information visit the [Government of BC webpage](#). An optional virtual information session on the Grant program is planned on December 3, 2021. Please [register via EventBrite](#)

Agristability Income Protection **Late Participation Deadline: December 31, 2021 & March, 2022**

B.C. farmers and ranchers have faces huge challenges this year. In response to 2021's extreme weather events a joint agreement between Canada and British Columbia has enabled a Late Participation Option for the [AgriStability](#) 2021 program year. Initially, all that is required is to submit a completed [2021 Late Participant Initial Declaration and Authorization Form](#) and pay a \$300 enrolment deposit by **December 31, 2022**. Late Participants can then apply for an interim payment of **up to a 75% advance of the estimated final benefit**; interim applications are processed quickly. For instructions on how to apply as a late participant to Agristability, visit the [Government of BC webpage](#).

Green Infrastructure – Environmental Quality **Deadline: January 26, 2022**

On October 8, 2021, the Canadian and BC governments committed up to \$270 million towards the third intake of the Environmental Quality (EQ) Program to support cost-sharing of infrastructure projects in communities across the Province. The EQ program is dedicated to capital infrastructure that will support access to drinking water, treatment

and management of wastewater and storm water, among other initiatives. This intake is designed to target projects starting in 2023 and completing by 2026. For more information and to apply visit [CivicInfoBC Granting webpage](#).

Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Intakes **Deadline: January 28 (ESS); February 25 (EOC)**

The provincially funded Community Emergency Preparedness Fund has opened two new funding intakes for Emergency Support Services ([ESS](#)) and Emergency Operations Centres and Training ([EOC](#)). All local governments First Nations (bands and Treaty First Nations) in BC are eligible to apply. The maximum eligible funding for each stream is \$25,000. The application deadline is January 28, 2022 for ESS and February 25, 2022 for EOC. The ESS stream supports applicants to build local capacity to provide emergency support services through volunteer/responder recruitment, retention and training, the purchase of equipment, the modernization of the evacuee registration process and by increasing group lodging capacity. The EOC stream supports applicants to purchase equipment and supplies required to maintain or improve EOCs, and to enhance EOC capacity through training and exercises. Program materials for both streams are [available](#) now.

Local Government Internship Funding Opportunity

Municipalities can access funding, talent, and solutions to challenges through Mitacs, a not-for-profit organization that fosters growth and innovation in Canada. Through [Mitacs's internship programs](#), local governments can access a range of research expertise and specialized skills from Canada's postsecondary institutions to advance innovation, policy, and local projects. Mitacs creates internship-based, partnered research and innovation projects for students by connecting local governments with academic partners throughout Canada. For these internships, Mitacs will provide matching funds, starting at \$5,000 per internship, for scalable, multidisciplinary projects. For more information visit the [UBCM webpage](#).

Rural, Remote, and Indigenous Food Security Action Grant – Coming Soon!

Does your community, Nation, or organization have a project that addresses food security and/or food insecurity? Northern Health, in partnership with First Nations Health Authority, will launch the Rural Remote and Indigenous Food Security Action Grant in January 2022. More information coming in the January E-brief; stay tuned!

Northern Health Stories

New Report: “In Her Circle: The influence of the COVID-19 pandemic on Indigenous women’s health in BC”

A new report from the [BC Women’s Health Foundation](#) and [Reciprocal Consulting](#) details the barriers facing Indigenous women in accessing health care during the COVID-19 pandemic...[continue reading](#).

Vaccine Testimonial – Vera’s Story

My name is Vera Madden, I received my first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at 24 weeks pregnant and then my second dose at 31 weeks pregnant...[continue reading](#).

Federal, provincial officials discuss ways to counter anti-Indigenous racism in health care

On January 27-28, 2021, health ministers from federal, provincial, and territorial governments, along with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation representatives and medical health experts, met for a two-day virtual conference hosted by the Minister for Indigenous Services Canada. The group focused their discussions on anti-Indigenous racism in Canada’s health care system... [continue reading](#).

See the latest stories at stories.northernhealth.ca.

E-Brief Information

The Healthier Northern Communities [E-Brief](#) is produced by [Northern Health’s regional Population and Preventive Public Health program](#).

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