

Mother's Day - Survey Mental Health - Asian Heritage - Vaccine -

Dear Community Member,

Over the past few weeks, we have all felt some relief as our most vulnerable—our grandparents, parents, and loved ones—received their vaccines. In particular this weekend, we are pleased to know that many of our mothers and grandmothers have received their vaccine. This weekend we wish them all a wonderful day!!! This week there is more good news: we're expecting to receive over one million doses of the Pfizer vaccine this month, speeding up our rollout.

Vaccine Details

With these new vaccines coming, it's more important than ever for all British Columbians aged 18+ to register through B.C.'s Get Vaccinated system. This way, you will get an email or text notification prompting you to book an appointment when it is your turn. You will only need to register once. Anyone who is not yet registered can do so in one of three ways:

- Online, 24-7 at: gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated
- By phone between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. (Pacific time), toll-free, at 1-833 838-2323
- In person at your nearest Service BC location

As of Thursday, May 6th, people 49+ can expect to start receiving email or text notifications to book their vaccine appointment, along with Indigenous people 18+ and people who are clinically extremely vulnerable. As well, pregnant British Columbians 16+ are now eligible to receive their vaccine as a priority population. After registering, people who are pregnant can book their vaccine by calling 1-833-838-2323 and identifying as being pregnant. For more information, [please visit this page](#).

Vaccine for kids

The Pfizer vaccine has now been approved by Health Canada for kids 12-17, and we'll be integrating them into our age-based vaccine rollout. As more people become eligible and more vaccines are approved, we will continue to update our provincewide program. [B.C. to offer Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to kids 12+](#)

Vaccine for Pregnant people

Pregnant people are now a priority population to receive their vaccine. All Health Canada-approved vaccines are safe and effective, including for people who are pregnant. If you're pregnant, register for the vaccine online and then call to book and tell them you are pregnant. Here is more information: [Pregnant people 16 and up can now book a vaccine as B.C. records 697 new COVID-19 cases | CBC News](#)

Vaccine stats

To date, over 1.9 million doses have been administered in B.C., with that number increasing every day. At this crucial time in the pandemic, **I strongly urge everyone who is eligible to register and get vaccinated as soon they are able.** Being immunized is the best way to protect ourselves and

our communities and to put this pandemic behind us. Thank you for continuing your efforts to keep each other safe. Here in Comox Valley we are ready for the influx of vaccine on it's way to Courtenay-Comox. So let's make sure we are all organized. The best vaccine is the one that's in your arm!

Supports for the our Communities

Though vaccines are on the top of everyone's mind it's important to remember some of the important social supports introduced that serve to make our province more equitable:

- This month we celebrate **Asian Heritage Month**. This year more than ever, this is an important acknowledgement because throughout this pandemic, Asian communities in BC have been targeted by increased hate and discrimination. Our government is taking action by introducing anti-racism legislation and legislation regarding race-based data collection. But we know more needs to be done. The Province is providing the Nikkei Seniors Health Care and Housing Society with \$2 million as part of its commitment to honour the traumatic internment of almost 22,000 Japanese Canadians during the Second World War. This funding will allow the expansion of services for intergenerational trauma, dementia care, community care and an online "wellness hub" to reach people during the COVID-19 pandemic. Read more here: [B.C. takes step to acknowledge historical wrongs against Japanese Canadians | BC Gov News](#)
- This week is **Mental Health Awareness Week** and we know that this has been a particularly difficult time for those who are living with issues of mental health. Reaching out to your friends, family, neighbours, and community members has never been more important. In the 2021 Budget, we made the largest investment in mental-health and addictions services in B.C.'s history with \$500 million to continue building the comprehensive system of mental-health and addictions care that British Columbians need. \$97 million of that will expand and strengthen mental-health and substance-use care for youth. But we need people to reach out now. Read more: [Opinion: Better mental health starts with honest conversations | Vancouver Sun](#)
- SURVEY!!!! This is technically a support, but ultimately this is your chance to help create the structures that will guide the province into the future. Make sure you fill out Round 2 of the survey, which aims to learn of the impacts of COVID 19 and search for solutions to these issues. [COVID-19 Survey \(bccdc.ca\)](#)

All the best this Mother's Day weekend. We thank-you for all the work (paid and unpaid) that you do for our families and communities. Thank-you for helping keep us all safe during this last year and making things special even these times! Happy Mother's Day!!!

My constituency office is available by phone or email. Available hours are Monday to Thursday 10am-4pm, and Fridays by appointment only. You can reach us at 250.703.2410 or Ronna-Rae.Leonard.MLA@leg.bc.ca if you have any questions or need assistance with provincial supports.

Sincerely,

Ronna-Rae Leonard
MLA Courtenay-Comox

COVID Resources:

For medical info, visit [bccdc.ca](https://www.bccdc.ca) or call 811

For vaccination info, visit gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated

For provincial supports and BC's Restart Plan, visit gov.bc.ca/covid19 or call 1-888-COVID-19 (1-888-268-4319) or text 604-630-0300

For employer guidelines on returning to work safely, visit [WorkSafeBC](https://www.worksafebc.com)

Take the self-assessment at covid19.thrive.health

For seniors looking for additional support, or for those looking to support seniors, call 2-1-1 or visit bc211.ca

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RonnaRaeLeonard/>

Instagram: @ronnaraeleonard

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYLQfuaKQV-itCluryo2hQg>

Website: <http://ronnaraeleonard.ca/>

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MY OFFICE REMAINS OPEN TO ASSIST BY PHONE OR EMAIL
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It is a privilege to live and work on the traditional lands of the K'omoks First Nations.

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COVID Resources:

- For medical info, visit covid-19.bccdc.ca or call 811
- For the BC Recovery Benefit, visit gov.bc.ca/recoverybenefit or call 1-833-882-002

- For financial supports for people and businesses, [visit this page](#).
- For PHO orders and guidance, [visit this page](#).
- For seniors looking for additional support, or for those looking to support seniors, call 2-1-1 or visit bc211.ca
- For virtual mental health resources, [click here](#).