

# COVID-19 Vaccine Update

March 1, 2021

Burnaby Neighbourhood House






For the most  
up-to-date  
information:

Please visit the BC  
Government Website, at:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/plan>



# **\*\* NEW UPDATE \*\* COVID-19 Vaccine call centers will open on March 8th.**

- **IF you were born in 1931 or earlier (90+) or are Indigenous and born in 1956 or earlier (65+):**
  - You can call your Health Authority on the week of March 8th.
- **IF you were born in 1936 or earlier (85+)**
  - Please call the week of March 15.
- **IF you were born in 1941 or earlier (80+)**
  - Please call the week of March 22.
- **You can also call on behalf of someone who is in these groups ^**

**This page has all the information you need, including what number to call and what to have ready before your call: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/seniors>**

To date, there have been **three** COVID-19 vaccines approved for use by Health Canada.

They include the **Pfizer** Vaccine, the **Moderna** Vaccine and the **AstraZeneca** Vaccine.

# Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine

- The vaccine is approved for people who are 16 years of age and older.
- Its safety and effectiveness in people younger than 16 years of age have not yet been established.

# Pfizer - How it is given:

- The vaccine is given by an injection (0.3 mL) into the muscle of the arm.
- For the vaccine to work best, you need to get 2 doses: a single dose and then a second dose **21 days** later.

# Moderna Vaccine

- The vaccine is approved for people who are 18 years of age and older.
- Its safety and effectiveness in people younger than 18 years of age have not yet been established.

# Moderna - How it is given:

- The vaccine is given by an injection (0.5 mL) into the muscle of the arm.
- For the vaccine to work best, you need to get 2 doses: a single dose and then a second dose **one month** apart.



# AstraZeneca:

- The vaccine is approved for people who are 18 years of age and older. Its safety and effectiveness in people younger than 18 years of age have not yet been established.
- This vaccine was approved on Feb 26th, 2021 and doses of it are due to arrive in Canada soon. A timeline for the shipments has not been provided yet.
- The AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine showed an effectiveness of about 62% in preventing symptomatic COVID-19 disease beginning 2 weeks after the second dose.

# AstraZeneca - How it is given:

- The vaccine is given by 2 separate injections of 0.5 mL each into the muscle of the arm. For the vaccine to work best, you need to get 2 doses: a first dose and then a second dose 4 to 12 weeks later.
- Immunity develops over time. It takes about 2 weeks to develop significant protection against COVID-19. For the greatest protection, you will need the second dose.

# All 3 Vaccines – Possible side effects:

- The side effects observed during the clinical trials are similar to what you might have with other vaccines.
- The side effects that followed vaccine administration in clinical trials were mild or moderate. They included things like pain at the site of injection, body chills, feeling tired and feeling feverish.
- As with all vaccines, there's a chance that there will be a serious side effect, but these are **rare**. A serious side effect might be something like an allergic reaction. Speak with your health professional about any serious allergies or other health conditions you may have before you receive this vaccine.

# Cost

- The COVID-19 vaccine is free for everyone living in B.C. who is eligible to receive it.

# What are **Variants** of the COVID-19 Virus?

- Variants are different versions of the virus
- New variants of a virus are **expected** to occur over time. Sometimes new variants emerge and disappear. Other times, new variants emerge and persist.
- Some variants spread more easily and quickly than other variants
- So far, studies suggest that antibodies generated through vaccination with currently authorized vaccines recognize these variants. This is being closely investigated and more studies are underway.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/transmission/variant.html>

# Will the 2 approved vaccines help against variants?

- Both Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna say their vaccines appear to be effective against both the B117 and the B1351 strains, based on blood samples from people who have been vaccinated.
- In a statement, Pfizer-BioNTech said these preliminary findings "do not indicate the need for a new vaccine to address the emerging variants."
- Thankfully both of these vaccines seem to be protective against B117 as it's the variant spreading the most quickly in Canada.

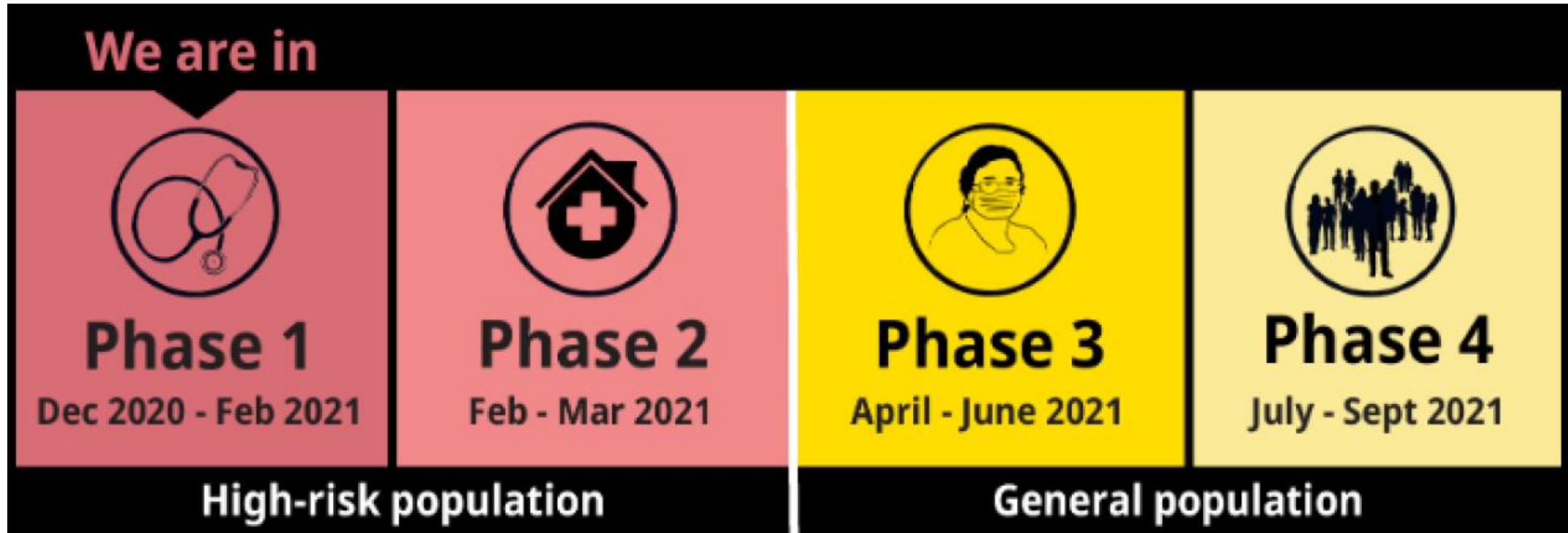
Source: <https://www.cbc.ca/radio/whitecoat/how-the-vaccines-we-have-and-the-ones-coming-next-stack-up-against-covid-19-variants-1.5905708>

- But more research is needed on the pair of vaccines, while other vaccine candidates already have some real-world data on their effectiveness against the variants.

## Approval status of the 7 COVID-19 vaccines potentially available to Canadians

Manufacturer	Doses	Submitted to Health Canada for review	Approved
<b>Pfizer-BioNTech</b>	● ●	✓	Dec. 9, 2020
<b>Moderna</b>	● ●	✓	Dec. 23, 2020
<b>AstraZeneca</b>	● ●	✓	<b>Feb 26, 2021</b>
<b>Janssen</b>	●	✓	
<b>Novavax</b>	● ●	✓	
<b>Sanofi/GSK</b>	● ●		
<b>Medicago/GSK</b>	● ●		

# Rollout phases



**It's important to understand the timeline for each phase may change due to vaccine availability. All people in B.C. recommended to receive the vaccine will have the opportunity to get it in 2021.**



# Please note

You will not miss your chance to get the vaccine when a new phase starts. Once you become eligible, you are always eligible. For example:

- If you are in Phase 2, you can get the vaccine in Phase 3 or Phase 4
- If you are in Phase 3, you can get the vaccine in Phase 4

# Phase 1: High-risk population immunization (Dec 2020 to Feb 2021)

- Residents and staff of long-term care facilities
- Individuals assessed for and awaiting long-term care
- Residents and staff of assisted living residences
- Essential visitors to long-term care facilities and assisted living residences
- Hospital health care workers who may provide care for COVID-19 patients in settings like Intensive Care Units, emergency departments, paramedics, medical units and surgical units
- Remote and isolated Indigenous communities

# Phase 2: High-risk population immunization (Feb to March 2021)

- Seniors aged 80 and over who are not immunized in Phase 1
- Indigenous (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) seniors age 65 and over, Elders and additional Indigenous communities not immunized in Phase 1
- Hospital staff, community general practitioners (GPs) and medical specialists not immunized in Phase 1
- Vulnerable populations living and working in select congregated settings
- Staff in community home support and nursing services for seniors

# Phase 3: General population immunization (April to June 2021)

- People aged 79 to 60, in five year increments:
  - 79 to 75 (D1 April, D2 May)
  - 74 to 70 (D1 April/May, D2 May/June)
  - 69 to 65 (D1 May/June, D2 June/July)
  - 64 to 60 (D1 June, D2 July)
- People aged 69 to 16 who are [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) (D1 and D2 April/June)

# Phase 4: General population immunization (July to September 2021)

- People aged 59 to 18, in five year increments: 59 to 55 (D1 July, D2 August)
  - 54 to 50 (D1 July, D2 August)
  - 49 to 45 (D1 July, D2 August)
  - 44 to 40 (D1 July, D2 August)
  - 39 to 35 (D1 July/August, D2 August/September)
  - 34 to 30 (D1 August, D2 September)
  - 29 to 25 (D1 August/September, D2 September)
  - 24 to 18 (D1 and D2 September)

# People with underlying health conditions that are **clinically extremely vulnerable** include:

- Solid organ transplant recipients
- People with specific cancers:
  - People with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy
  - People with lung cancer who are undergoing radical radiotherapy
  - People with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukemia, lymphoma or myeloma who are at any stage of treatment
  - People having immunotherapy or other continuing antibody treatments for cancer
  - People having other targeted cancer treatments that can affect the immune system, such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors
  - People who have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last six months or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs
- People with severe respiratory conditions including all cystic fibrosis, severe asthma and severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- People with rare diseases that significantly increase the risk of infections (such as severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID), homozygous sickle cell disease)
- People on immunosuppression therapies sufficient to significantly increase risk of infection (biologic modifiers, high dose steroids, AZT, cyclophosphamide)
- People who had their spleen removed
- Adults with very significant developmental disabilities that increase risk
- Adults on dialysis or with chronic kidney disease (stage 5)
- Women who are pregnant with significant heart disease, congenital or acquired
- Significant neuromuscular conditions requiring respiratory support

# How will I know it's my turn? Will I be notified?

- Public health officials will make arrangements for those in listed **priority groups** to be vaccinated.
- Anyone who is eligible to receive the vaccination will be notified by their local health authority.
- No action is required from the public, and there is no need to call your local health authority at this time.

# Specifically..

Starting in mid-to-late February, health authorities will be reaching out to seniors aged 80 years and older, Indigenous seniors aged 65 years and older, and Indigenous Elders to provide information on how to register for immunization appointments.

People will be notified by postcard, email, text, or phone call, through specialty clinics, independent living homes, home care services, and family physician offices.



What if I'm not in one of the first priority groups? Or if I am a member of the general public? When will I know it's my turn to be vaccinated?

### **Step 1: Register**

- When it's time for you to register, you will select your preferred method of communication. This is how we will contact you to book a vaccine appointment.
- Registration opens March 2021. There will be two options to register:
  - Online
  - By phone

## **Step 2: Make an appointment**

- When you are contacted to make a vaccine appointment, you will be asked to:
  - Complete a pre-screening
  - Select a location, date and time
- You will be able to make your appointment online or by phone.

### **Step 3: Appointment day**

- Come prepared to your appointment and arrive a few minutes before your scheduled time. At the immunization clinic you will:
  - Complete a check-in process
  - Get your vaccine dose
  - Wait in an observation area for about 15 minutes

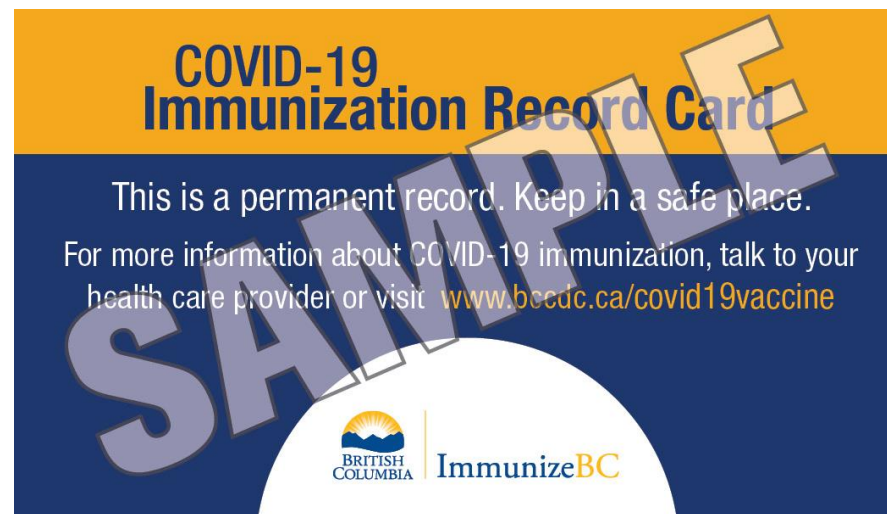
### **Getting the second dose**

- People who get their first vaccine dose will be notified by email, text or phone call when they are eligible to book an appointment for their second dose.

# Proof of immunization


- You will have the option to receive a paper and digital copy of your immunization record card. We recommend registering for [Health Gateway](#), where your digital immunization record card will be available only after you receive the vaccine.
- Your immunization record will be also be stored in the online provincial database, accessible to you, public health and your doctor.

Example of a paper immunization record card:

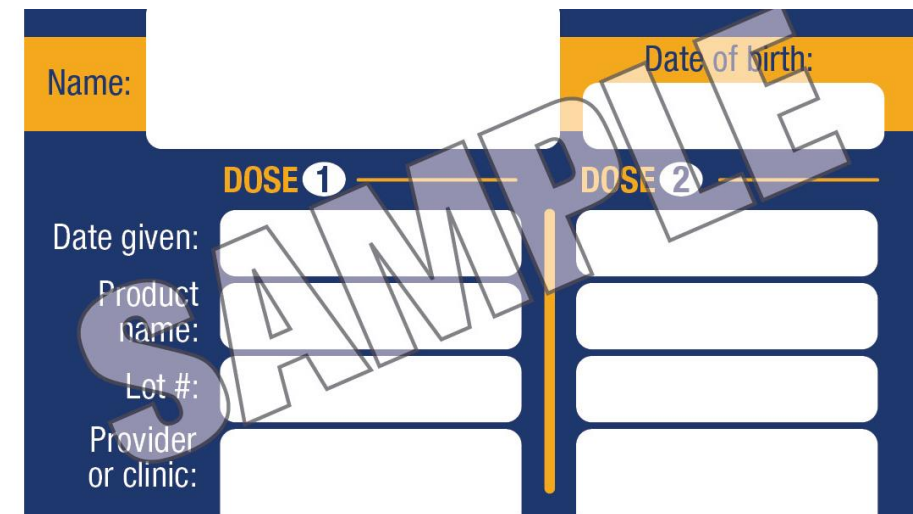


**COVID-19 Immunization Record Card**

This is a permanent record. Keep in a safe place.  
For more information about COVID-19 immunization, talk to your health care provider or visit [www.bccdc.ca/covid19vaccine](http://www.bccdc.ca/covid19vaccine)

 **ImmunizeBC**

The card features a large 'SAMPLE' watermark diagonally across the center.



	DOSE 1	DOSE 2
Name:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Date given:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Product name:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Lot #:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Provider or clinic:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

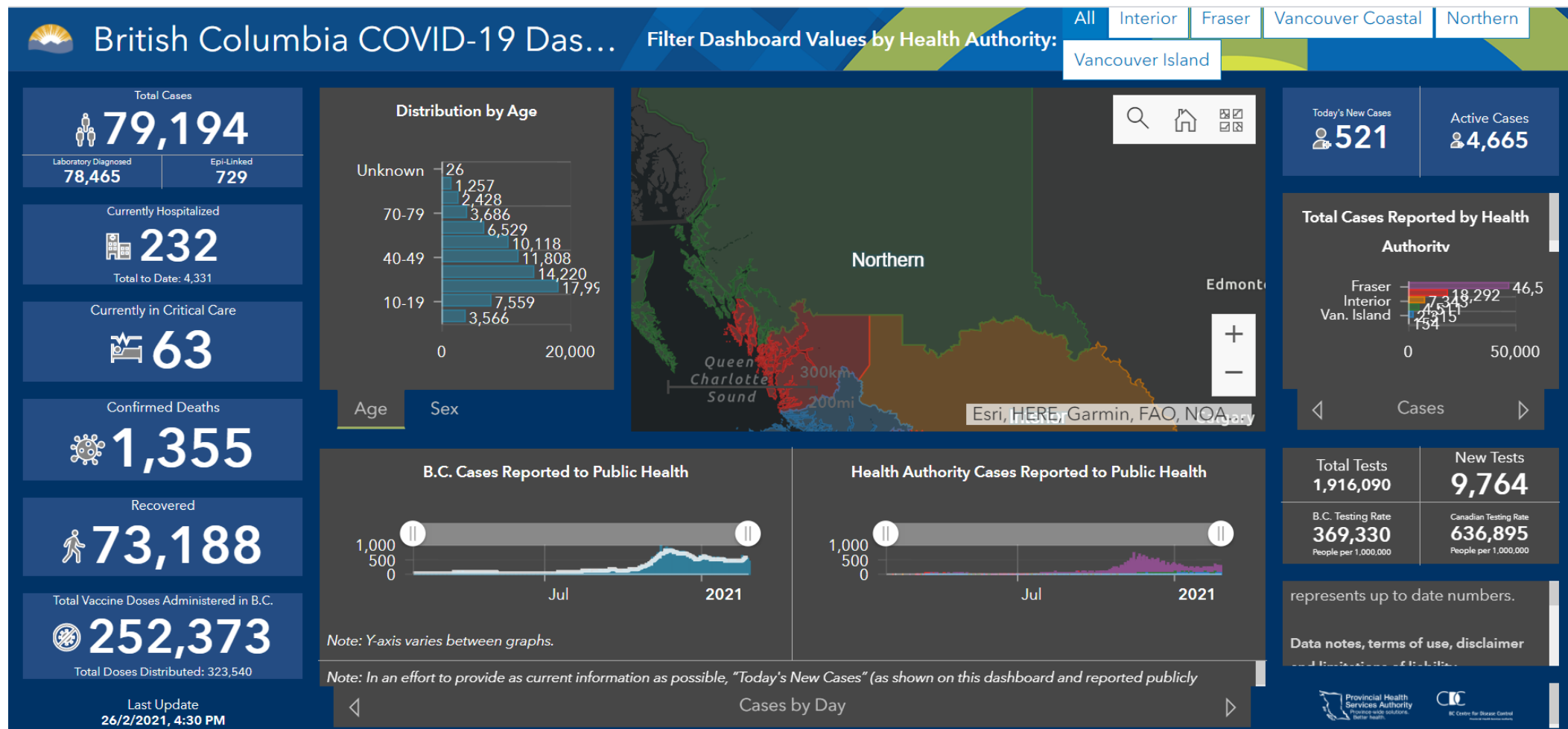
Date of birth:

The form includes a large 'SAMPLE' watermark diagonally across the center.

# For people interested in up to date data:

- Updated COVID-19 data for BC:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/a6f23959a8b14bfa989e3cda29297ded>



# Sources:

- Information about Rollout phases:  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/plan>