

ACTING-PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

MAY 31ST, 2021

Having spent the first seven months of this school year in the classroom, teaching during the pandemic has been brutal, to say the least. What is even more alarming is looking back to September and seeing how much we have been through. Masks vs. no masks, airborne vs. contact contagion, vaccine hopes vs. vaccine shopping, and online teaching resources vs. in-class teaching resources. One thing is for sure, the pandemic has brought to light some glaring needs for teachers and schools.

September, teaching in cohorts seemed like an impossible task. Dr. Bonnie Henry who was once a hero of the pandemic became the villain. Perhaps it wasn't Dr. Henry herself, perhaps it was the Ministry of Education. Teacher's wanted the same rights and protections as workers across the province – face masks, barriers, limited numbers, etc. What ever it was, it was a pretty hard pill to swallow that teachers faced more hazards in the workplace than almost any other. It was said that schools had to stay open so the BC economy could get back on track. On one hand, the weight of the province was on our shoulders – kids in the classrooms meant normalcy, safety, and moving forward. On the other hand, if kids being in the classroom is so important, why has that never been reflected when it comes to increasing funding into education? Just imagine the money that was put into schools, just for cleaning, was continued for perpetuity? Would your classroom look different? Mine sure would!

If education is so important, why is there not more funding for our schools? I am not just talking about laptops, playground equipment, science labs, field trips, etc., I am talking about school desks, lunch rooms, student testing, EA support, and a myriad of other things? In a few short months, teachers will be back at the bargaining table asking for better funding, not only so we aren't one of the lowest paid across the country, but so our students can access all the supports they need. It scares the *bleep* out of me having to head into that sooner than later – ask most any teacher and they will not have recovered after two months rest!

Resources, facilities, and the well-being of teachers has helped this province work through the pandemic and I can only hope that the province acknowledges the needs and funds a healthy education system. As we close in on June, I do thank Dr. Henry for guiding us through the school year and not having us flipping back and forth between in-class and on-line learning and hope the Ministry of education doesn't ignore all that we have done to help our province get through this pandemic.

Thank-you everyone, for your patience, strength, and professionalism!

Connie



CDTA AGM MAY 19, 2021 – ELECTION RESULTS

Table Officers

- i) President/Alternate Local Rep. - Shelley Balfour
- ii) Vice-President – Connie Merz
- iii) Secretary – Vacant
- iv) Treasurer – Larry Dureski

Committee Chairpersons

- i) Bargaining/Working & Learning Conditions – Connie Merz
- ii) Professional Development – Secondary – Karen Kettenacker
- iii) Social Justice - Vacant
- iv) French Education Local Chair - Vacant
- v) Political Action Contact - Vacant
- vi) Aboriginal Education – Alison Dawson
- vii) Social Committee - Vacant
- viii) Health & Safety - Elementary/Secondary – Larry Dureski / Karen Bidder
- ix) Mentorship for Beginning/New Teachers – Deleen Adams
- x) Teachers Teaching on Call – Liz Jakobsen

Your union local needs you!

The above vacant positions do not take an inordinate amount of time or energy, but they do add to the advocacy and well being for all teachers in our community.

COVID VACCINATIONS – MAY 8-9, 2021

It was an absolute grind to get there, but COVID-19 vaccinations were put in teachers arms on the weekend of May 8-9, 2021.

I wrote a quick thank you to the Interior Health people in charge of the program and I would like to share this response:

Thank you so much for the kind feedback. As a mom with a child in the school system, and long-standing Cranbrook community member it felt so good to support the teachers anyway we could 😊.

SHANNON STATHAM, RN, MN

*Director, Clinical Operations Cranbrook – Kimberley
Primary Care Lead – East Kootenay*



KNOW YOUR CONTRACT ARTICLE D.15: NUMBER OF PREPARATIONS

Number of Preparations

- a. Except for teacher assignment preference no teacher shall be required to prepare more than five (5) different courses at the middle school and junior secondary level or more than three (3) different courses in each semester at the senior secondary level.
- b. A course shall be defined as any course defined or listed by the Ministry of Education or any course specified within the school as "honours/enriched", or "modified", and any defined locally developed course.

BE SURE TO CHECK YOUR TEACHING SCHEDULE FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR!

COVID VACCINATIONS – THE SECOND DOSE

When will I be able to get my second dose?

In B.C., while vaccine supplies are limited, the time between first and second dose will be extended so more people can receive their first dose. This will save lives and prevent hospitalizations. Learn more about the [second dose](#).

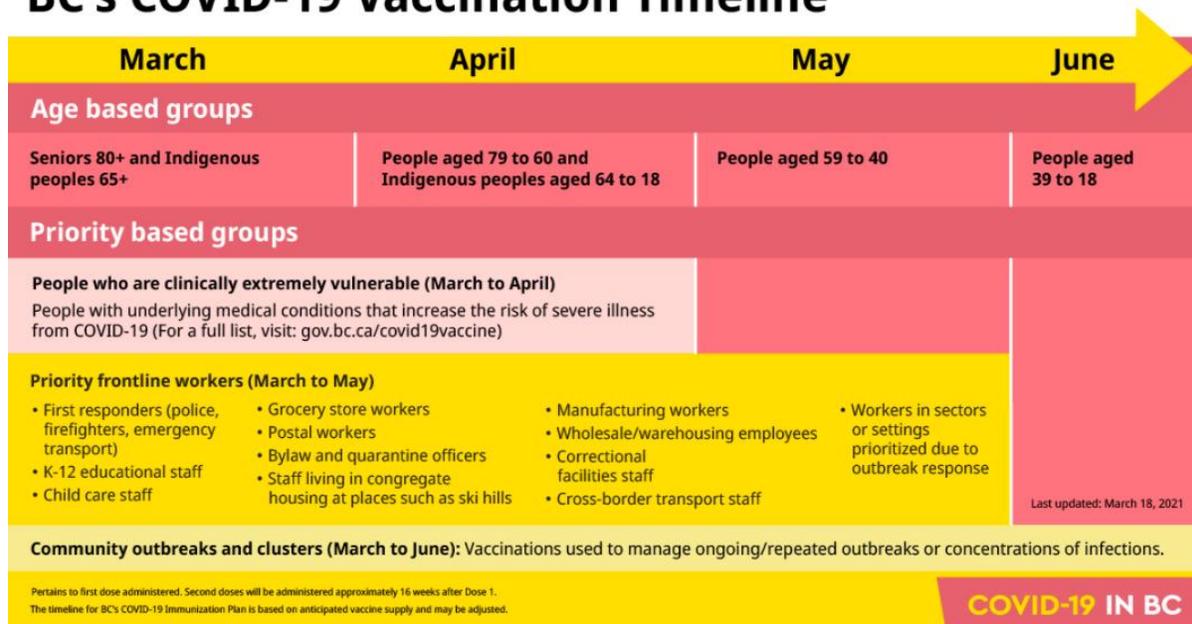
People who get their first vaccine dose will be notified by email, text or phone call when they are eligible to book an appointment for their second dose. Please make sure you are registered with the [Get Vaccinated](#) system. If you received your first dose and have not yet registered, do so now so you will be notified when you can get your second dose.

Immunization record

You will have the option to receive a paper and digital copy of your immunization record card. By registering for [Health Gateway](#), you will be able to access your digital immunization record card.

Your immunization record will be also be stored in the online provincial database, accessible to you, public health and your doctor.

BC's COVID-19 Vaccination Timeline



RE-OPENING - THE NEXT STEP... AS OF MAY 25, 2021

STEP	Criteria	PHO Guidance	Personal Gatherings	Organized Gatherings	Travel	Sports & Activities	Businesses	Offices & Workplaces
1 MAY 25	C: stable H: stable D1: 60%	Masks mandatory, indoor public spaces Physical distancing If sick, stay home and get tested	Outdoor personal gatherings – up to 10 people Indoor visitors – up to 5 people or 1 household	Indoor seated organized gatherings – up to 10 people Outdoor seated organized gatherings – up to 50 people	Recreational travel within your zone Non-essential travel between zones restricted	Low-intensity indoor fitness classes Outdoor local team games and practices for all ages – no spectators	Indoor & outdoor dining – up to 6 people Liquor service - 10PM Existing WorkSafeBC Safety Plans remain in place	Start gradual return to workplaces and offices Existing Safety Plans remain in place
2 JUNE 15 (Earliest date)	C: declining H: declining D1: 65%	Masks mandatory, indoor public spaces Physical distancing If sick, stay home and get tested	Outdoor personal gatherings – up to 50 people Indoor visitors – up to 5 people or 1 household Playdates	Indoor seated organized gatherings – up to 50 people Sector consultations on next steps on indoor and outdoor gatherings	BC recreational travel BC Transit and BC Ferries – increased services as needed	High-intensity indoor fitness classes - reduced capacity Indoor team games for all ages – no spectators Spectators for outdoor sports – up to 50 people	Liquor service – midnight Banquet halls reopen – limited capacity, Safety Plans Sector consultations on next steps on easing of restrictions	Continue return to work Small in-person meetings
3 JULY 1 (Earliest date)	C: low H: declining D1: 70%	Masks – recommended Careful social contact If sick, stay home and get tested	Return to usual on indoor and outdoor personal gatherings Sleepovers	Increased capacity, indoor and outdoor gatherings – Safety Plan Fairs & festivals with Safety Plan	Canada recreational travel	All indoor fitness classes – increased capacity Limited spectators for indoor sports	Dining – no group limit Bingo halls, casinos and nightclubs – limited capacity Operate based on new Safety Plans	Seminars and bigger meetings Operate based on new Safety Plans
4 SEPT 7 (Earliest date)	C: low H: low D1: 70%+	Masks – personal choice Normal social contact If sick, stay home and get tested	Normal social contact	Increased capacity on large organized gatherings (i.e. concerts)	Canada recreational travel	Increased indoor and outdoor spectators Return of normal sport competitions – Safety Plans	Continue to operate based on new Safety Plans	Fully re-opened offices and workplaces

C: C-19 case counts H: C-19 hospitalizations D1: minimum % of people 18+ with dose 1

PROFESSIONAL STANDARD #9 – BC COLLEGE OF TEACHERS

In light of the tragic discovery at the Kamloops Residential school, I would like to remind you of professional standard #9.

Educators shall respect and value the history or First Nations, Inuit, and Metis in Canada and the impact on the past, present, and the future. Educators contribute towards truth, reconciliation, and healing. Educators foster a deeper understanding of ways of knowing and being, histories, and cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Metis.

Educators critically examine our own biases, attitudes, and beliefs values and practices to facilitate change. Educators value and respect the languages, heritage, cultures, and ways of knowing of being First Nations, Inuit, and Metis. Educators understand the power of focussing on connectedness and relationships to oneself, family, community and the natural world. Educators integrate First Nations, Inuit, and Metis worldviews and perspectives into learning environments.

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/kindergarten-to-grade-12/teach/teacher-regulation/standards-for-educators/edu_standards.pdf

UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 1, 2021 Say Something Nice Day
- June 2, 2021 Executive Meeting
- June 4, 2021 Pro-D Day
- June 8, 2021 Pro-D Meeting
- June 20, 2021 Summer Solstice – the longest day of the year! (as compared to January)
- June 25, 2021 Administration Day
- Have a safe, happy, relaxing, and well-deserved Summer Holiday!
- August 24-26, 2021 Summer Leadership Conference
- September 7, 2021 Back to school!

Be sure to check out the Cranbrook District Teachers' Association webpage for easy access to your contract and up to date information.

www.cranbrookdistrictteachersassociation.com