

NORTHERN HEALTH UPDATE

Phase 2 COVID-19 immunization plan update

The Province of BC has released more information about Phase 2 of the COVID-19 immunization plan, which focuses on protecting our seniors and Elders.

Beginning March 8, 2021, seniors aged 80 and older, and Indigenous peoples aged 65 and older, who are not living in independent or seniors' supportive housing can call to book their appointment according to a staggered schedule.

There is no requirement to register before booking, and immunization clinic locations will be confirmed at the time of booking, with vaccinations starting as early as March 15, 2021.

Contact information, hours, and call-in schedules for the Northern Health region, as well as step-by-step instructions on how to call to book an appointment for yourself or a loved one, will be available on March 8, 2021, through www.gov.bc.ca/bcseniorsfirst, and on the [Northern Health website](#).

For more information, see the [full article on the NH stories site](#) and the [Government of B.C. news release](#).

COVID-19 vaccine second dose delayed to 16 weeks after first dose

The province is delaying the delivery of second dose to 16 weeks after first dose. As a result, Northern Health will be delaying all Dose 2 immunizations and clinics as of today, March 1, 2021. The second dose will be provided 16 weeks following the first dose and clinics will be organized to accommodate this new time frame.

Is it safe for my second dose to be delayed?

Yes, Health Canada supports a longer delay between first and second doses. Many countries have delayed second doses and found that people still have a strong immune response against COVID-19.

Am I protected by one dose?

Studies around the world are showing that even one dose of COVID-19 vaccine provides very good protection against transmission of COVID-19 and serious illness.

This change will help ensure that the maximum number of British Columbians are able to receive their first dose of immuni