



BC COVID-19 Vaccine Card

September 2021

Background

On September 7, 2021, Premier John Horgan, Health Minister Adrian Dix, and Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry announced the format of BC's new COVID-19 Vaccine Card, coming into effect on September 13.ⁱ Previously on August 23, 2021, Premier Horgan, Minister Dix, and Dr. Henry notified British Columbians that a temporary [new system would be coming into place](#) to help monitor those accessing discretionary activities in BC. The BC Vaccine Card is required for all British Columbians aged 12 and up in order to enter various businesses and services. Visitors to BC will also be required to show proof of vaccine that has been issued from their home province or country. At this time, this program is expected to last until at least January 31, 2022, and could be extended if necessary.ⁱⁱ

The requirement to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination with the Vaccine Card will take effect on September 13 and is a public health order, meaning that businesses must comply or face fines and/or potential closure for failing to comply. As of that date, all individuals aged 12 and over will be required to demonstrate that they have received at least one dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine.ⁱⁱⁱ Adults aged 19 and over will also be required to show a piece of government-issued identification (such as a driver's license, passport, or BC ID) along with their Vaccine Card. British Columbians then have until October 24, 2021 to receive their second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, an update which will be reflected on the Vaccine Card.^{iv} Any visitors who do not normally reside within BC will also be required to show government-issued proof of vaccine as well as a piece of government-issued ID (if visiting from another province), or specifically their passport (if visiting from another country).^v

All individuals aged 12 and over will be required to show proof of vaccine in order to access the following services:^{vi}

- Restaurants, pubs, bars, lounges (indoor and outdoor seating)
- Organized indoor events with 50 or more people (weddings, parties, conferences, etc.)
- Organized indoor group recreational classes and activities (art classes, music classes, etc.)
- Indoor concerts, theatres, dances, symphonies
- Fitness centres, gyms, indoor adult sports
- Indoor group exercise activities (yoga, spin, aerobics, etc.)
- Night clubs, casinos, movie theatres
- Indoor ticketed sporting events

Those who have a computer or smart phone can access the card online by secure log-in through [Health Gateway](#). The individual must present their Personal Health Number (PHN), date of birth, and the date of either dose of their COVID-19 vaccine in order to continue. Upon completion of these steps, the individual's Vaccine Card with an individualized QR code will pop up on the screen. The card can either be saved as an image to the device or can be printed to use as a physical document.

Those who do not have access to a computer or smart device can also access their Vaccine Card either by calling 1-833-838-2323, or by visiting any [Service BC location](#). For those who call in, a paper card will be mailed to them. Additionally, BC residents who were vaccinated outside of BC can submit their vaccine information online through the [Provincial Immunization Registry](#) to ensure that their records are accurate.

Current data continues to demonstrate clearly that COVID-19 vaccines are very safe and effective when it comes to not only preventing COVID-19 but mitigating against severe illness and death caused by COVID-19. As of September 2021, modelling data from the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) demonstrates that unvaccinated individuals are at 12 times greater risk of infection with COVID-19, 34 times greater risk for hospitalization, and 8 times greater risk of death, compared to vaccinated individuals.^{vii}



Nurses know that the COVID-19 pandemic has been a long and challenging time for many. The best action that people can take is to get vaccinated and follow public health protocols include wearing a mask indoors and in outdoor crowded areas, practising good hand hygiene, and by practising physical distance and limiting time around those who may be more vulnerable. The new BC Vaccine Card is another public health protocol that is intended to help British Columbians get through this difficult period and keep them safe, especially as cases are higher right now due to the highly transmissible Delta variant. Nurses are at the forefront of COVID-19 management, vaccination and recovery and know that any implementation to help slow or stop the spread of this infectious illness is a benefit to all communities. By getting vaccinated and using the Vaccine Card, British Columbians can do their part to help keep themselves and those around them safe.

Key Messages

- BC has implemented a Vaccine Card as of September 13, 2021.
- Individuals aged 12 and up will be required to provide proof of vaccination to enter certain establishments.
- This requirement is set by a public health order and must be complied with for affected businesses.
- Individuals who are not yet vaccinated or who are partially vaccinated will have until October 24, 2021 to get their second dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine.
- Current data continues to demonstrate clearly that COVID-19 vaccines are very safe and effective when it comes to not only preventing COVID-19 but mitigating against severe illness and death caused by COVID-19.
- The new BC Vaccine Card is another public health protocol that is intended to help British Columbians get through this difficult period and keep them safe, especially as cases are higher right now due to the highly transmissible Delta variant.
- Nurses are at the forefront of COVID-19 management, vaccination and recovery and know that any implementation to help slow or stop the spread of this infectious illness is a benefit to all communities.

Further Reading/Resources

- [Proof of Vaccination and the BC Vaccine Card](#)
- [BCCDC: Proof of Vaccination](#)
- [COVID-19: Proof of Vaccine](#)
- [BC Gov: Vaccine Card Enhances Confidence, Increases Safety at BC Events](#)
- [BC Gov: BC Vaccine Card: Keeping People Safe and Businesses Open \(powerpoint\)](#)
- [BC Gov: Proof of Vaccination Information for Businesses](#)
- [FNHA: Everything You Need to Know About BC COVID-19 Vaccine Card](#)

ⁱ BC Office of the Premier. [Vaccine card enhances confidence, increases safety at B.C. events](#). September 7, 2021.

ⁱⁱ Province of BC. [Proof of vaccination information for businesses](#). September 9, 2021.

ⁱⁱⁱ BCCDC. [Proof of vaccination](#). September 7, 2021.

^{iv} BCCDC. *Proof of vaccination*.

^v Ibid

^{vi} Province of BC. [BC Vaccine Card: Keeping People Safe and Businesses Open](#). September 7, 2021.

^{vii} Province of BC. *BC Vaccine Card: Keeping People Safe and Businesses Open*.