

# IMMSFORMATION

A newsletter for community vaccine providers

The BCCDC is located on the unceded, ancestral and traditional lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh), and Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) Nations



## National Immunization Awareness Week

April 22-April 30, 2024

This year's theme:  
Protect your future.  
Get immunized!

[National Immunization Awareness Week \(NIAW\)](#) is an annual event held in the last week of April to highlight and recognize the importance of immunization. This year, Canada's NIAW coincides with [Vaccination Week in the Americas](#) and [World Immunization Week](#).

Watch this short [5-minute video](#) in which Dr. Kate O'Brien (Immunization Director at the World Health Organization) discusses the history of smallpox, polio and COVID-19 and highlights how immunization has and continues to be the most effective health intervention in all of human history.

### NEW From ImmunizeBC:

- ImmunizeBC's vaccine pages have been updated with a fresh design and new content, graphics, schedule tables, links to aftercare sheets, and related pages. Example: [MMR vaccine page](#).
- ImmunizeBC's new [immunization schedule tables](#) list the vaccines recommended for children by age in a mobile-friendly format.
- New [measles posters](#) have been developed.

### Western Canada Immunization Forum: Recordings Now Online!

The Western Canada Immunization Forum took place on March 6th, 2024. The BCCDC would like to thank all presenters and participants (in-person and virtual) for making the event a success.

[View event recording, agenda, and poster presentations](#)

### Immunization Coverage Reports

Updated 7-year-old and grade 6 and 9 [immunization coverage reports](#) will be available shortly on our BCCDC website. These reports include immunization coverage rates for the following periods:

- 2020/21
- 2021/22
- 2022/23

### Global Rise in Measles Cases

Globally, measles cases are rising due to a decline in measles vaccinations that occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn more about measles and vaccines to prevent it:

- [BC Immunization Manual Part 4: Biological Products](#), MMR & MMRV
- [BCCDC Measles Guidelines](#)
- ImmunizeBC: [MMR page](#) and [MMRV page](#)
- HealthLinkBC: [MMR page](#) and [MMRV page](#)



## What is Your Vaccine Misinformation Vulnerability?

When it comes to vaccine misinformation, everyone is vulnerable - but everyone is vulnerable in different ways.

Take the iBoostImmunity [Information Persona Analysis](#) to better understand your information persona and to help you identify when you need to reflect on the information you find online.



## Truth and Reconciliation Library

Written by Dr. Stephanie A. Nixon, [The coin model of privilege and critical allyship: implications for health](#) explains how social structures produce both **unearned** advantage and disadvantage. The article describes principles for practicing critical allyship to guide the actions of people in positions of privilege to resist unjust structures that produce health inequities.

Nixon describes the article as a “call to action for all working in health to:

- (1) **recognize their positions of privilege**, and
- (2) **use this understanding to reorient their approach** from saving unfortunate people to working in solidarity and collective action on systems of inequality.”

## COVID-19

### Spring COVID-19 Vaccination

The BC Ministry of Health has announced a [Spring COVID-19 vaccination program](#).

The [BCCDC COVID-19 vaccination toolkit for health professionals](#) provides guidance and information on COVID-19 vaccines and additional resources for health professionals.

Key resources include:

- [COVID-19 health care provider Q&A](#)
- Handouts and information for the public
- BC Immunization Manual, [Part 4: Biological Products page](#), COVID-19 vaccines
- Management of inadvertent COVID-19 vaccine errors
- Education and training for immunizers

### From the Vaccine Evaluation Centre: CANVAS Network



The [Vaccine Evaluation Center \(VEC\)](#), founded in 1988, is Canada’s first academic center for independent vaccine research and an international leader in vaccinology research. The Center is jointly supported by BC Children’s Hospital Research Institute and the University of British Columbia.

The VEC’s [Canadian National Vaccine Safety \(CANVAS\) Network](#) is a national platform that **monitors vaccine safety**, complementing Canada’s passive vaccine safety surveillance system.

[Recent and ongoing studies](#) include vaccines for COVID-19, influenza, meningitis B, mpox and RSV. The most recent study (covering COVID-19 and flu vaccination) had over 400,000 participants across six provinces and one territory.