

## Office of the Seniors Advocate Monthly Update - November 2021

### What's Happening in November

[Fall Prevention Month](#)

[Osteoporosis Month](#)

[Remembrance Day](#) (November 11)

[World Diabetes Day](#) (November 14)

[Stomach Cancer Awareness Day](#) (November 30)

### COVID-19

#### COVID-19 Vaccinations

As of October 29, 89.8% (4,163,572) of eligible people 12+ in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 85.0% (3,940,563) have received their second dose.

On October 26, the government announced the next steps in the province's COVID-19 immunization plan, which involved booster shots for the general population. The priority is B.C.'s elderly and most at-risk population, who will receive invitations to book a booster dose between September and December 2021. Beginning in January 2022, the plan expands to include all British Columbians.

Proof of full vaccination is required to access some events, services, and business in British Columbia. This requirement applies to all people born in 2009 or earlier (12+). As of October 26, more than 3.6 million British Columbians have accessed their BC Vaccine Card.

[Learn More](#)

#### COVID-19 Update

In B.C., the fourth wave of COVID-19 pandemic began in August 2021. On August 23, the provincial government announced that we will not move to Step 4 of B.C.'s reopening plan, making masks mandatory in all indoor spaces once again and directing businesses to continue to keep safety plans in place.

[Learn More](#)

## Long-Term Care update

As of October 27, 2021, there are 21 active COVID-19 outbreaks in long term care and assisted living. There are currently 424 active COVID-19 cases among residents and staff in these care homes.

[Learn More](#)

## Provincial News

### Statements from the Provincial Health Officer and Minister of Health

The Provincial Health Officer and the Minister of Health release regular statements that can be accessed on the [BC Government News](#) website.

### Long-term care worker vaccine mandate now in effect in B.C.

(Daily Hive)

As of October 12, all long-term care workers are required to have at least one COVID-19 dose. Full immunization will be required by October 26.

[Learn More](#)

### Recent Announcements from the B.C. Government Impacting Seniors

- Oct 5, 2021 [Sixteen affordable rental homes for seniors on Quadra Island](#)
- Oct 5, 2021 [Province exploring redevelopment for seniors housing complex in Kamloops](#)
- Oct 5, 2021 [Proof of vaccination for B.C. public service to increase workplace confidence, stop spread](#)
- Oct 13, 2021 [New homes for seniors, families open in Valemount](#)
- Oct 15, 2021 [West Coast General Hospital emergency department expansion begins](#)
- Oct 18, 2021 [Parliamentary secretary's statement on Health Care Assistant Day](#)
- Oct 19, 2021 [Roll up your sleeves, B.C.: Influenza immunization prevents serious illness, deaths](#)
- Oct 19, 2021 [COVID-19 capacity limits lifting as two-dose vaccine requirements begin](#)
- Oct 21, 2021 [B.C. launches first accredited PPE testing lab in Western Canada](#)
- Oct 26, 2021 [Provincewide booster dose is next step in COVID-19 immunization plan](#)

## National News

## Statements from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada

The Chief Public Health Officer of Canada releases regular statements that can be accessed on the [Government of Canada News](#) website.

## New Minister of Seniors Announced

On Tuesday, October 26, the Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced the members of Cabinet following the fall election. Kamal Khara, the Member of Parliament for Brampton West, becomes Minister of Seniors.

[Learn More](#)

## Recent Announcements from the Federal Government Impacting Seniors

- Oct 1, 2021 [Statement by the Prime Minister on National Seniors Day](#)
- Oct 7, 2021 [Beware of scams using false CBSA credentials](#)
- Oct 14, 2021 [Travel Advisory: REMINDER – Border measures remain in place for travellers entering or returning to Canada](#)
- Oct 15, 2021 [Statement from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada](#)
- Oct 20, 2021 [Affordable high-speed Internet for low-income seniors and families](#)

## Seeking Your Opinion

### Help shape B.C.'s anti-racism data legislation

B.C. is drafting anti-racism data legislation, so that the government can better identify existing gaps and create a more equitable province. The public consultation will help inform government about how to collect data in a way that is reflective of the needs and experiences of Indigenous, Black and people of colour (IBPOC) communities. The public engagement will run until November 30 and will be available in multiple languages.

[Learn More](#)

### Patient Voice for osteoporosis therapies

The Government of B.C. is working with Osteoporosis Canada, the BC Coalition of Osteoporosis Physicians, and Medicines Access Coalition – BC (MedAccessBC) to consult osteoporosis patients. The Patient Voice Survey provides patients, caregivers and advocacy groups to voice their concerns regarding osteoporosis therapies in BC and BC PharmaCare coverage. The Survey is open until November 17, 2021.

[Learn More](#)

## Recent Research

### Optimizing care for critically ill older adults

(Canadian Medical Association Journal)

Older adults account for more than 50% of patients in ICUs in Canada. This article reviews best care practices for older adults in the ICU, with special consideration for multi-morbidity, frailty, and delirium.

[Learn More](#)

### **Routinely asking patients about income in primary care: a mixed-method study**

(BJGP Open)

This case study looked at all adults admitted to Jewish General Hospital in Montreal with diagnosed COVID-19 from March to August 2020. The mortality rate was higher among patients living in residential care facilities and risk of death increased with age, being male, and presence of four or more simultaneous medical conditions.

[Learn More](#)

### **The Case of a Zoom and WhatsApp Mental Health Intervention for Seniors during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

(Health Communication)

This paper discusses Zoom and WhatsApp digital group interventions conducted during the first wave of the pandemic to promote community-dwelling seniors mental health. The authors discuss both the technology and intervention goals.

[Learn More](#)

### **Under Reporting of Abuse of Older Adults in the Canadian Prairie Province**

(SAGE)

This paper discusses qualitative findings across three Prairie provinces in Canada. Interview data was collected older adults' histories of abuse. Findings are reported on recognizing abuse, barriers to disclosure and facilitators of reporting.

[Learn More](#)

### **The COVID-19 pandemic as experienced by the spouses of home-dwelling people with dementia – a qualitative study**

(BMC Geriatrics)

This paper presents telephone interviews from 17 spouses of people with dementia, reporting on their experiences during the pandemic in Norway. The constant changes in daily life and uncertainty had impacts on health and well-being. However, there was also discussion of positive activities and accessible services.

[Learn More](#)

### **Involvement, worries and loneliness of family caregivers of people with dementia during the COVID-19 visitor ban in long-term care facilities**

(Geriatric Nursing)

This article presents data from 958 family caregivers of people with dementia living in long-term care facilities. The caregiver who visited more frequently reported more worry and loneliness than the caregivers who visited less frequently.

[Learn More](#)

### **Older Adults in an LGBT Residential Community: Impact of a Safe Space on Occupation and Well-Being**

(The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy)

This paper presents a case study of the first low-income housing complex for LGBTQIA+ older adults in the USA. Affordability, safety and community social acceptance were most important for the LGBTQIA+ older adults, followed by personal expression, creativity and community spaces.

[Learn More](#)

### **Requirements for Successful Dialogue with Dementia Patients in a Nursing Home**

(Journal of Intelligent & Robotic Systems)

This article presents the effectiveness of dialogue between a mobile socially assistive robot and 15 residents in a long-term care facility. The findings are discussed within the context of improved quality of life for residents.

[Learn More](#)

## **Outreach by the OSA**

The Seniors Advocate continues to meet with seniors across the province by attending events and delivering presentations virtually. If you would like to invite the Seniors Advocate to present at your event, please contact our office at [info@seniorsadvocatebc.ca](mailto:info@seniorsadvocatebc.ca).

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