



THE OFFICE OF THE SENIORS  
ADVOCATE WISHES ALL  
BRITISH COLUMBIANS

# Happy Holidays!



"I hope that your holiday season is filled  
with much joy and happiness."  
-Isobel Mackenzie



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

### What's Happening in December

[Women's Brain Health Day](#) (December 2)

[International Day of Persons with Disabilities](#) (December 3)

[Human Rights Day](#) (December 10)

### OSA Reports and Surveys

#### Home Support Clients and Caregivers Survey

Are you a home support client or caregiver? The Office of the Seniors Advocate wants to hear from you! All recipients of public home support will receive a mailed survey beginning in mid-December. Care-providers will be able to access the survey online at the [OSA Website](#). The survey launch date will be announced shortly. Keep an eye on your mailbox, and OSA's website and social media.

## COVID-19

### COVID-19 Vaccinations

As of December 3, 85.1% (4,240,459) of eligible people five and older in B.C. have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 81.8% (4,079,299) have received their second dose. In addition, 91.2% (4,229,649) of eligible people 12 and older have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, 88% (4,079,277) received their second dose and 10% (469,176) have received a third 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 businesses in British Columbia. This requirement applies to all people born in 2009 or earlier (12+).

[Learn More](#)

### Long-Term Care update

As of December 1, there are two active COVID-19 outbreaks in long-term care facilities, and one active outbreak in an assisted living facility. There are currently 21 active COVID-19 cases among residents of long-term care and assisted living, and 11 cases among staff at these facilities.

[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.

### B.C. Seniors Advocate reminds people 70 or older to get booster or third dose

The B.C. Seniors Advocate is reminding seniors who are registered on the Get Vaccinated provincial registration system will receive an invite to book a booster dose approximately 6 months after their second dose. Having the BC Vaccine Card/passport does not mean a senior is registered with the Get Vaccinated System. The Get Vaccinated phone centre is open seven days a week, 7 am to 7 pm. To ask questions and verify registration, call 1-833-838-2323.

[Learn More](#)

The importance of the booster or third dose in older adults is highlighted in a recent study from The Lancet. See the **Recent Research** section of this newsletter to learn more about the study.\

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

- November 1 [Almost 600 lives lost to extreme heat in summer 2021](#)
- November 5 [Seniors benefiting from new homes in Richmond](#)
- November 9 [New affordable rental homes coming to Vernon](#)
- November 12 [New Community Health Centre coming to Westshore](#)
- November 19 [Province prioritizes fuel for essential vehicles, introduces travel restrictions](#)
- November 24 [Village of Clinton welcomes 20 homes with supports for seniors](#)

## 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.

### Governor General delivers the Speech from the Throne

(CBC News)

On Tuesday, November 22, the Governor General Mary Simon delivered the Speech from the Throne, unveiling the promises and commitment of the recently elected Liberal government.

[Learn More](#)

## Recent Announcements from the Federal Government Impacting Seniors

- November 5 [Travelling to the U.S.? COVID-19 border measures and testing requirements remain in place when you come home](#)
- November 7 [Health Canada authorizes the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine as a booster shot](#)
- November 11 [Minister of Veterans Affairs, National Defence and Public Safety mark Remembrance Day](#)
- November 19 [Adjustments to Canada's border and travel measures](#)

## Seeking Your Opinion

### Accessibility and the BC Building Code

The BC government is working to update the BC Building Code to make new buildings more accessible. The first step invites the public to provide feedback about barriers and priorities to enhance accessibility requirements in new buildings. Feedback accepted until 4pm on December 9.

[Learn More](#)

## **COVID-19 Long-Term Care academic study**

The Bruyère C19 Immunity study is recruiting residents, workers, and caregivers from LTC homes across British Columbia. The study will measure whether an individual's immune system developed antibodies against COVID-19. For questions or to enrol a LTC home, please contact at [delkodsi@bruyere.org](mailto:delkodsi@bruyere.org).

[Learn More](#)

## **Recent Research**

### **Effectiveness of a third dose of the BNT162b2 mRNA COVID-19 vaccine for preventing severe outcomes in Israel: an observational study**

(The Lancet)

Many countries are experiencing a resurgence of COVID-19, driven predominantly by the delta (B.1.617.2) variant of SARS-CoV-2. In response, these countries are considering the administration of a third dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine as a booster dose to address potential waning immunity over time and reduced effectiveness against the delta variant. This paper uses the data repositories of Israel's largest health-care organisation to evaluate the effectiveness of a third dose of the BNT162b2 mRNA vaccine for preventing severe COVID-19 outcomes.

[Learn More](#)

### **Rural citizen-patient priorities for healthcare in British Columbia**

(BMC Health Services Research)

This provincial survey of rural patients identified healthcare needs and community challenges including access to emergency, specialized services and primary care. Geographic, financial and social barriers to accessing care were also identified.

[Learn More](#)

### **Attitudes toward withholding antibiotics from people with dementia lacking decisional capacity: findings from a survey of Canadian stakeholders**

(BMC Medical Ethics)

This article discusses decision-making around antibiotic treatments in persons with dementia who no longer have decisional capacity, in both advanced and terminal stages. Implications for Continuous Deep Sedation (CDS) and medical assistance in dying (MAID) in dementia populations are also discussed.

[Learn More](#)

## **Every step counts: synthesizing reviews associated objectively measured physical activity and sedentary behaviour with clinical outcomes in community-dwelling older adults**

((The Lancet Healthy Longevity)

This review synthesizes the research on measuring physical activity and sedentary behaviour in community-dwelling adults aged 60 and older, and its impact on frailty, falls, strength and cognition. Step count was the most meaningful measure associated with clinical outcomes.

[Learn More](#)

## **Evaluation of a multisectoral intervention to mitigate the risk of severe acute respiratory coronavirus virus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) transmission in long-term care facilities**

(Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology)

Vancouver Coastal Health presents an analysis of a series of outbreak measures to control COVID-19 in Long-term care facilities. Outbreak measures included case and contact management, proactive care detection, infection control practices and resource allocation strategies.

[Learn More](#)

## **Relationship between environmental factors and responsive behaviours in long-term care homes: a secondary data analysis**

(BMJ Open)

This paper analyzes data from long-term care facilities in British Columbia, Alberta and Manitoba to look at the relationship between the LTC environment and responsive behaviours, such as wandering, resisting care and verbal abuse. Homelike environment and basic environmental quality were important to improved responsive behaviours.

[Learn More](#)

## **Leadership for quality in long-term care**

(Healthcare Management Forum)

Leadership practices in eight Canadian long-term care facilities were identified and development of leadership standards across staff and management in LTC is discussed.

[Learn More](#)

## **Impact of COVID-19 on Relationship-Centred Residential Dining Practices**

(Canadian Journal on Aging / La Revue Canadienne Du Vieillissement)

This article describes the impact of altered dining practices in long-term care facilities on socializing, safety and staffing during mealtimes.

[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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