

Daily Update – 4 February 2021

[Ottawa warns provinces to expect further disruptions to Moderna vaccine shipments this month](#)

The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is warning provinces that there will be yet more disruptions to the supply of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine shots later this month, according to a document obtained by CBC News.

The Massachusetts-based company told Canadian officials last week that the shipments for the week of Feb. 1 would be reduced by 20-25 per cent, and now it appears this month's second shipment is also likely to be lower than expected.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was repeatedly asked in question period Wednesday whether Moderna would send the doses it promised at the end of the month. Trudeau refused to answer but maintained the government is still expecting to have six million doses of both the Pfizer and Moderna products on hand by the end of March.

[SkipTheDishes adds a 99-cent fee for customers in B.C.](#)

The popular app SkipTheDishes has quietly added a 99-cent fee for customers in B.C., as a way to make up for the province's decision to cap the app's commission at 15 per cent during the pandemic.

The province's delivery fee cap was brought in to help struggling restaurants following complaints that delivery companies had been charging them up to 30 per cent.

SkipTheDishes says the charge will remain until that order is lifted. The company claims the fee will also ensure continued service across B.C.

[Air Canada to suspend Rouge operations indefinitely](#)

Air Canada will pause all operations of its Rouge aircraft indefinitely and lay off 80 employees starting Feb. 8, the latest round of cuts at Canada's struggling airlines.

Rouge flights were suspended earlier in the pandemic, but were restarted in November ahead of the winter travel season.

[BC Launches new Online Grant Program to help 1,500 SMEs](#)

The new Launch Online Grant program is designed to help over 1,500 eligible small- and medium-sized B.C. businesses adapt to changes in consumer behaviour and pivot to market their products online.

Grant recipients can use the funding for a variety of online-related expenses, including pictures, creating an online inventory system, advertising costs, subscription costs of an e-commerce platform and training staff to manage the website.

The Launch Online Grant program is based on a first come, first-served basis. The program will run until March 31, 2021, or until all funds are distributed.

Eligibility criteria for businesses include having:

- a goods and services tax number and paying taxes in B.C.;
- generated sales of more than \$30,000 in either 2019 or 2020;
- one to 149 employees (applications can be submitted by sole proprietors); and
- repeatable products, or in the case of artists and jewellers, individual items that have slight differences (e.g., paintings and rings).

As part of the application, businesses are required to develop a grant proposal that indicates how they plan to use the funds.

For more information on the Launch Online Grant program, including the application process and eligibility, visit: www.launchonline.ca

Ontario: Schools to reopen for in-person learning

Schools in Toronto, Peel Region and York Region will reopen for in-person learning on February 16.

Schools in Durham and Halton regions and those outside of the Greater Toronto Area will reopen on February 8.

Quebec back-to-school plan for post-secondary students

Quebec's Higher Education Minister Danielle McCann announced the details of the province's plan for a gradual return to class for CEGEPs, colleges, and universities. Students will return at least one day a week starting Feb. 8

In red zones, students will be allowed to head back several times a month, ideally once a week, regardless of their program of study. Classroom capacity is being capped at 50 per cent for theory classes, with no limit on practical classes (like science labs) and everyone must maintain a 1.5-metre distance in addition to wearing a mask.

Alberta: Quarantine extended up to 24 days for contacts of COVID-19 variant cases

Alberta has changed self-isolation rules for those infected with variants of COVID-19, and in some cases people may end up in quarantine for up to 24 days, says the province's top public health doctor.

The province has now found 50 cases of the virus variant first identified in the United Kingdom, and seven of the variant first identified in South Africa, Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Alberta's chief medical officer of health, said Tuesday at a news conference.

Hinshaw said that a 14-day quarantine for anyone in the household starts on the last day that the positive case spends in the home while infectious. If the variant case leaves to go to an isolation hotel or another location where they are not in contact with others, the 14 days for contacts starts at that point, she said.

If, however, the variant case and their contacts all stay in the same home for the full 10-day isolation period of the case, then the 14-day quarantine for the contacts starts after those 10 days are finished.

Manitoba considers limited opening of restaurants, gyms and churches

The province is now floating the idea of allowing restaurants, tattoo parlours, gyms, nail salons and libraries to reopen with limited capacity.

It also is considering allowing places of worship to reopen, increasing capacity for weddings and enabling the film industry and photographers to resume work.

Organized outdoor sports may be allowed to resume for games or practices but no multi-team tournaments. Similarly, gyms will likely only be allowed to offer one-on-one training sessions — no group classes.

The proposed changes would come into effect on Feb. 13, when the current restrictions are set to expire. Manitobans will likely see a draft of the restrictions on Tuesday and a final version shortly after that.

The province's COVID-19 curve has been bending in the right direction, which means it's time to look at further reopening the economy, Premier Brian Pallister said Thursday.

Cruise ship visits to Canada now banned until February 2022

A ban on cruise ships with more than 100 people coming to Canada will remain in place until February 2022, a federal government release said Thursday. The temporary measures for cruise ships were scheduled to end on Feb. 28. Minister of Transport Omar Alghabra announced the interim order, and also extended an order prohibiting pleasure craft in Canadian Arctic waters except for those used by residents of the region.

US – FASB releases [Accounting Standards Update](#), Franchisors—Revenue from Contracts with Customers

On January 28, 2021, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ([FASB](#)) issued [Accounting Standards Update No. 2021-02](#), Franchisors—Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Subtopic 952-606):

Practical Expedient. The amendments in this Update introduce a new practical expedient that simplifies the application of the guidance about identifying performance obligations for franchisors that are not public business entities.

The practical expedient permits franchisors that are not public business entities to account for pre-opening services provided to a franchisee as distinct from the franchise license if the services are consistent with those included in a predefined list within the guidance. Additionally, the Board decided to provide an accounting policy election to recognize the pre-opening services as a single performance obligation.

Download the [Accounting Standards Update](#)

P.E.I. cabinet shuffle

P.E.I. Premier Dennis King announced a shuffling of some of the top members of his cabinet Thursday morning. The changes are as follows:

- Ernie Hudson moves to Health and Wellness from Social Development and Housing.
- Natalie Jameson moves to Education and Lifelong Learning and remains responsible for Status of Women. She was formerly in Environment, Water and Climate Change.
- James Aylward moves to Transportation and Infrastructure from Health and Wellness.
- Brad Trivers moves to Social Development and Housing from Education and Lifelong Learning.
- Steven Myers moves to Environment, Energy and Climate Action from Transportation and Infrastructure. He retains responsibility for Energy.

Four ministerial appointments were unchanged.

- Darlene Compton: Finance.
- Jamie Fox: Fisheries, Communities.
- Matthew MacKay: Economic Growth, Tourism and Culture.
- Bloyce Thompson: Agriculture and Land, Justice and Public Safety.