

Subject: Covid 19 Update - Dec 15, 2021 - Booster Shots for Spectrum Employees

Date: Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 3:31:12 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Ernie Baatz

To: Ernie Baatz

Hi Spectrum Employees;

Immunization BC is coordinating access to booster vaccination shots for Covid-19 based on risk groups, age, interval between dose 1 and 2, and time since second dose. These considerations and analysis have resulted in prioritizing booster shots for B.C.'s most vulnerable populations including those ages 70 and over, Indigenous peoples ages 18 and over, and populations that received their second dose on or before March 15, 2021.

Health care workers in specific settings (e.g., long-term care facilities) are also a priority for a booster shot. A decision has been made to include staff working in CLBC-funded group homes in this category of health care workers because of the direct support these staff provide to immune vulnerable individuals and because these group homes are congregate settings where there is increased risk of COVID-19 transmission. Health care workers – including staff in CLBC-funded group homes – will be invited for their COVID-19 booster shots between now and the end of January 2022.

- Staff who work in CLBC-funded group homes, are eligible for a booster dose in the same priority category as health care workers in Long Term Care/Assisted Living Staff, Physicians and Workers.
- **Most Spectrum managers and front-line workers are in this category as you work with people who live in staffed residential homes and provide support to immune vulnerable individuals.**

What you need to do:

Starting immediately staff in CLBC-funded Group Homes can follow the link below to self-identify in the Long Term Care/Assisted Living Staff, Physicians and Worker group.

1. You need to have ready the following information to complete your self-identification on the system:
 - PHN (*Personal Health Number, found on the back of your Driver's License or CareCard*).
 - Date of Birth.
 - Date of a previous COVID-19 vaccine (either Dose 1 or Dose 2).
 - Target Population Access Code: H3962N!
2. Go to the *Get Vaccinated online system* here: <https://www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca/s/d3-target-self-identification>
Note: if you are not yet registered on the Get Vaccinated provincial website, you

will be directed to a webpage to do so before you are able to complete this step.

3. After you have entered the required information the system will redirect you to a second page to indicate which specific category you fall into (please select Long Term Care/Assisted Living Staff, Physicians and Workers group).
 - You will be asked to certify that the information provided is accurate. If any of the information you enter does not match what health has on file, you may be redirected to contact the call centre for assistance and to verify your information.
4. Once you complete these steps, you are identified in the system and will be invited by the system to access your COVID-19 booster shot when it's your turn to book an appointment.
 - Please wait for your invite rather than phoning the call centre. Drop-ins at clinics or pharmacies are not permitted for booster shots.

PLEASE NOTE:

- This self-identification link and access code are intended only for identified health care workers. By choosing to self-identify through this service, you are acknowledging that you have received this code from your employer.
- This link and code are not transferrable. If the code is mis-used it will be cancelled and the ability to continue with the vaccination through this program may be compromised.
- Anyone booking an appointment who is not an eligible member of this group will be turned away at the clinic.

What you need to know for your appointment:

Please bring:

- your driver's license or other photo ID and your personal health number/BC Services Card (if you have one).
- Employee paystub.

Please note:

- Anyone arriving at a COVID-19 Booster Shot Clinic who is not eligible will be turned away.
- Please do not attend the clinic if you are feeling unwell, experiencing COVID-like symptoms, or if you have been asked by Public Health to self-isolate.
- You will be provided with a medical mask and reminded to follow physical distancing guidelines while at the clinic.
- After you receive your vaccination, and as per standard vaccination protocol, please plan to stay on site for 15 minutes to ensure that you don't experience any adverse effects.

Question: When do you think booster shots will be included in the definition of fully vaccinated as defined by the PHO Order?

Answer from Dr. Behn Smith:

- Boosters will **not** be included in the Order
- If you have had 2 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, then you have excellent protection
- A booster shot is given when the effectiveness of the 2 doses starts to drop off
- This doesn't happen for 7-9 months (or longer) after the second dose
- If you have been double vaccinated, you should feel very confident in the 2 doses you already have
- We will all be getting boosters between 6-8 months after our second shot
- The dropping off of protection happens very gradually so people don't have to rush for their booster shot
- You will be contacted when it's your turn just like before, as long as you are registered with Get Vaccinated BC
 - <https://www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca/s/>

This question was from the recent phone conference call for individuals and families on December 3, 2021. If you want to see more of the questions and answers in the plain language summary, you can read it here: <https://www.communitylivingbc.ca/wp-content/uploads/CLBC-telecon-Dec-3-Plain-Language-Summary.pdf>

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