

Subject: COVID-19 Updates - January 18, 2021
Date: Monday, January 18, 2021 at 9:16:38 AM Pacific Standard Time
From: Ernie Baatz
To: Ernie Baatz
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png, image003.jpg, image004.jpg, image005.jpg, image006.jpg, image007.jpg, image008.png

Staying Safe and Staying Healthy

The basics of keeping the people we support, our teams and your families Healthy and Safe are important to practice every day:

- Stay home if you sick – Call 811 for further directions.
- Wash your hands regularly
- Keep your distance – at least two metres or six feet from people outside your bubble
- Wear a mask on transit, in stores, in all indoor public spaces.
- Keep your social bubble small – But stay connected with friends and family. Phone, video chat, go for a walk outside – it is so important to keep in touch.

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CLBC Conference Call for Self-Advocates and Families Today

The next monthly teleconference for individuals and families with Dr. Daniele Behn Smith, Deputy Provincial Health Officer, and Ross Chilton, CLBC CEO, is scheduled for Monday, January 18, from 1:35 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. We will be pleased to have Nicholas Simons, Minister for Social Development and Poverty Reduction join us.

How to call in:

Vancouver: 604-681-0260

Elsewhere: 1-877-353-9184

Participant code: 87916#

** Due to the large number of participants, please call in at 1:20 p.m.*

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CLBC Update for Individuals & Families



Welcome to the January 14 edition of CLBC's Update for Individuals and Families. As a reminder, you can find all Updates (including past editions) [posted on our website here](#). You can also check out CLBC's [Facebook page here](#) and [Twitter page here](#). If you know of anyone who would like to receive future Updates, please share [the link to our sign up page](#) with them. If you have a specific question, or feedback about this update, you can send an email to CLBCInfo@gov.bc.ca.

CLBC and Government News

Province-wide restrictions extended until February 5

B.C. Provincial Health Officer (PHO) Dr. Bonnie Henry has extended the province-wide restrictions on all events and social gatherings to significantly reduce COVID-19 transmission related to social interactions and travel. The order is in effect until Friday, February 5, 2021 at midnight.

As a reminder, the best place to get up-to-date information about COVID restrictions and orders from the Provincial Health Officer [is on the BC Government website here](#).

A graphic with a pink background. On the left, the text "Province-wide restrictions" is written in large, white, bold letters. To the right is a black silhouette map of British Columbia. At the bottom right, a yellow bar contains the text "COVID-19 IN BC" in white.

Flexible Funding Options for Direct Funding Agents and Person-Centered Societies

CLBC knows that families are doing the best they can to remain resilient during this time. Many families are experiencing additional challenges with taking care of their family member who may no longer be able to fully access regular respite care, or other

support options. From now until June 30, 2021, direct funding agents (people who receive respite funding and/or other Individualized Funding directly) and person-centred societies will have new flexible options.

[Visit the CLBC website here](#) for details about how this temporary program may apply to you, including:

- [Interim Policy Guidance](#) that outlines how funding may be used during this time along with reporting requirements.
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Express Respite Menu](#) that provides a list and examples of how families can get support with this new flexible option.

Next teleconference for individuals and families takes place January 18

The next monthly teleconference for individuals and families with Dr. Daniele Behn Smith, Deputy Provincial Health Officer, and Ross Chilton, CLBC CEO, is scheduled for Monday, January 18, from 1:35 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. We will be pleased to have Nicholas Simons, Minister for Social Development and Poverty Reduction join us. Details about how to join the call can be found [on the teleconference webpage here](#).



We have received many questions about vaccinations and will provide as many answers on this call as we can. If you have a question on this topic for, please email CLBCInfo@gov.bc.ca and use the subject line “Jan 18 CLBC Call.”

Information about the COVID-19 vaccine

With the approval of COVID-19 vaccines in Canada, many of us are anxious to know how and when vaccinations will happen for people with developmental disabilities and their caregivers. You can find information about the COVID-19 vaccination the [on BC Centre for Disease Control \(BCCDC\) website here](#).

B.C. hopes to have vaccine available for all those who choose to be vaccinated by the end of this year. However, it will take time before there’s enough vaccine for everyone in the province, so vaccine distribution will be phased and will start with key populations based on Canada’s pandemic plan.

You can learn more about the distribution plan for vaccines [on the BCCDC website here](#). Adults in group homes are a priority group for the vaccine in February and March.

While the vaccine distribution process takes place, it's important to remember to continue to maintain COVID-19 prevention measures to keep yourself and others safe. We will share new information about the vaccine roll out in future editions of this update as it becomes available.

Vaccines and consent for people with developmental disabilities

Informed consent is an essential pre-condition to receiving a vaccine. [Visit the BC Centre for Disease Control website here](#) to learn about the steps involved in obtaining consent for vaccination, including instructional videos about situations where individuals need to demonstrate capacity to give consent, as well as what happens for individuals who are not able to give consent.

B.C. Recovery Benefit plain language summary available

The COVID-19 pandemic has created many challenges and hardships for people and families. To help people and families recover from these hard times, the B.C. Government introduced a new benefit called the B.C. Recovery Benefit. This is a one-time, tax-free provincial benefit of up to \$500 for an adult or \$1,000 for a family.

For people who receive income or disability assistance, the Government also announced the \$150 Recovery Supplement. The \$150 Recovery Supplement replaces the \$300 COVID-19 Supplement. People receiving Disability Assistance can receive both the B.C. Recovery Benefit and the \$150 Recovery Supplement.

[You can read a plain language summary on the CLBC website here](#) with information about the B.C. Recovery Benefit and how to apply, as well information about the Recovery Supplement.



Exemptions to the mandatory mask order in B.C.

In order to prevent the transmission of COVID 19, masks are now mandatory in all indoor public spaces in B.C., except for people who are unable to wear masks. The B.C. Office for the Human Rights Commissioner has created [this poster to explain the order and the exemptions](#). If you are a person who is unable to wear a mask, this may be a helpful poster to print and bring with you.

Staying connected and supported

***Recipes for Respite* conversations continue**

Looking for ideas and options around your respite? The Family Support Institute has created a new Facebook group for those interested in sharing and learning about the different ways families are using their CLBC respite funding to get a break. [You can click here to find the group](#), and you can hit the “Join Group” button to join. *Recipes for Respite* is a place to be creative with other families and to share thoughts and ideas. The group will also create topics to organize different types of information people may be interested in.

You can also join one of the regular Thursday *Recipes for Respite* Zoom meetings. [Visit the FSI event calendar here](#) to find information about these meetings, as well as many other online activities and events taking place.



Tools for Connection

This is a reminder that the [Toolkit for Connection available here](#) has been developed with our partners to help individuals and their families know about the many resources and supports available during COVID-19.

Self Advocate Corner

Happy Hour Hangouts

Looking to connect and have some fun? Join the online [Happy Hour Hangout](#) on Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. These events are hosted by CLBC Strategic Initiative Advisors Michelle Goos, David Johnson and Shelley DeCoste as well as special guest Sherwin Strong.

Come to meet new friends, share a laugh, play a game or just relax and watch. Let's stay safe and connected!

Self Advocate Leadership of the Year nominations now open until February 8

BC People First is proud to present the Self Advocate Leadership of the Year Award. The Award will celebrate an individual who has shown exceptional leadership and knowledge throughout 2020 in advocating for the rights of people with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

People can be nominated for the award by a peer, family member, staff, colleague, support worker or friend. Nominators can nominate more than one person if they desire. Have fun nominating someone you know!



[Click here to complete the online nomination form.](#)

All nominations must be submitted by **Monday, February 8 at 5:00 p.m.**

Things for self advocates to do during the pandemic: Learn about the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which Canada ratified in 2010, identifies the human rights of people with disabilities and focuses on removing barriers that prevent full participation in society.

BC People First is hosting an online information and training session on the CRPD next week on Wednesday, January 20 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

[Click here to learn how you can join the session.](#)

Stories of hope and encouragement

Families share their pandemic stories

In the two stories below, family members share their perspectives on life and lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Eric Goll, from [Empowering Ability](#), shares what has helped his family and other families with a loved one with a developmental disability during the pandemic [in the video “Pandemic Family Learnings”](#)
- Liane Kupferberg Carter shared her story “[How Having a Child With Autism Helps Me Ride Out the Pandemic](#)” in the New York Times



Signing Off

We hope everyone had a great and restful holiday season and a chance to connect with friends and family, even if only virtually. For our first edition of 2021, here’s a little comic relief. Until next edition...

**BEFORE I AGREE TO 2021,
I NEED TO SEE SOME**

I NEED TO SEE SOME TERMS & CONDITIONS

Ernie Baatz

Executive Director

Spectrum Society for Community Living

Express yourself. Build your network. Find your voice.

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Be Calm, Be Kind, Be Safe