

Subject: COVID-19 Updates - January 22, 2021 - BC's Immunization Plan
Date: Friday, January 22, 2021 at 4:26:48 PM Pacific Standard Time
From: Ernie Baatz
To: Ernie Baatz
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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.

I am hearing from many people that these restrictions are causing them anxiety. We all want to get back to “normal” and visit with friends.

But every social gathering brings a cascade of risks. If you are meeting with someone outside your bubble, you are now sharing all your contacts with that person and their bubble, and they are sharing the experiences and contacts of everyone in their bubble with you.

A safe social gathering right now is going for a walk outside. Enjoy the sunshine and the fresh air and get some social connection along with some exercise. Spring is coming and it will be much easier to spend time outside. Vaccines are coming and people will have some additional protections.

If you would like to get some mental health support, government has shared these resources:

Mental health and anxiety support: www.bouncebackbc.ca

Or: www.anxietycanada.com

Or: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/mental-well-being-during-covid-19>

Or: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/managing-your-health/mental-health-substance-use/virtual-supports-covid-19>

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B.C. takes next steps to protect people with COVID-19 vaccine rollout plan

British Columbians are a step closer to receiving their COVID-19 immunizations, with additional details and timelines released for the largest and most complex immunization plan to ever roll out in B.C.

Premier John Horgan; Adrian Dix, Minister of Health; Dr. Bonnie Henry, provincial health officer; and Dr. Penny Ballem, executive lead for B.C.'s immunization efforts; announced details of the next phases in B.C.'s COVID-19 Immunization Plan. The plan will see approximately 7.4 million doses of vaccine administered to every British Columbian who is eligible to receive it between April and the end of September.

COVID-19 Immunization Plan

Phase 1 Dec 2020 to Feb 2021		Phase 2 Feb to Mar 2021		Phase 3 April to June 2021		Phase 4 July to September 2021	
High-Risk Population				General Population			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residents, staff, and essential visitors to long-term care and assisted living Individuals assessed for and awaiting long-term care Hospital health care workers who may provide care for COVID-19 patients Remote and isolated Indigenous communities 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seniors aged 80+ who are not yet immunized Indigenous seniors aged 65+, Elders, and additional communities not yet immunized Hospital staff, community GPs and medical specialists not yet immunized Vulnerable populations in select congregated settings Staff in community home support and nursing for seniors 		People aged 79 to 60, in five-year increments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 79 to 75 74 to 70 69 to 65 64 to 60 People aged 69 to 16 who are clinically extremely vulnerable 		People aged 59 to 40, in five-year increments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 59 to 55 54 to 50 49 to 45 44 to 40 	
Once additional vaccines are approved and become available, people aged 18 and 64 who are front-line essential workers or work in high-risk industries may be included in the later part of Phase 3.							
The timeline for BC's COVID-19 Immunization Plan may change based on vaccine availability. Information last updated: January 19, 2021							

People living in group homes and their staff are included in the Phase 2 group receiving vaccinations in February and March 2021.

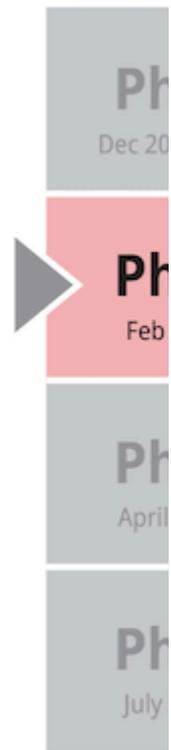
[Read more in the full press release...](#)

There was also [a presentation](#) used in the press conference to provide more details on the immunization plan. The slide for Phase 2 is below:

Phase 2

Timeline: February to March 2021

- Seniors aged 80+ who are not immunized in phase 1.
- Indigenous (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) seniors, age 65 and over and Elders and additional Indigenous communities not immunized in Phase 1.
- Hospital staff, community GPs and medical specialists not immunized in Phase 1.
- Vulnerable populations living and working in select congregated settings.
- Staff in community home support and nurses caring for seniors.



COVID-19 IN BC

Exactly **Where** and **When** these vaccines will be delivered is to be announced in the coming weeks.

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Pandemic Pay Update

I have heard from many more agencies who have received their pandemic pay funding in the last two weeks so we are very hopeful we are next in line. As soon as we receive the funding, we will process payroll to send your pandemic pay. As a refresher, Pandemic Pay is a lump sum payment based on \$4/hour for hours worked between March 15, 2020 and July 4th, 2020. For Spectrum employees, it totals about \$300,000 and we need to receive this funding before we can pay it out. The Province has apologized for the delay in rolling out this program:

Delays are largely due to administrative complexities associated with distributing a new program to an estimated 250,000 employees working for hundreds of different employers.

Despite the challenges of the program, it should not have taken this long for employees to receive their pay. The Province apologizes for the significant impact this delay has had for everyone affected.

You can read more about [Pandemic Pay here:](#)

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Join CLBC's Jan. 26 COVID-19 telephone update for service providers and home sharing providers

Dear CLBC service providers and home sharing providers –

Please join our telephone update on Tuesday, January 26 for a chance to receive COVID-19 health and safety information from Dr. Daniele Behn Smith, Deputy Provincial Health Officer. Also on the call will be Ross Chilton, CEO of Community Living BC (CLBC), and Brenda Gillette, CEO of the BC CEO Network.

We have already received many questions about vaccinations. We are in the middle of a very dynamic planning period and health authorities are working hard to organize the most complex vaccination strategy we have ever had to implement in our province. We are conveying questions to the office of the Provincial Health Officer and Dr. Behn Smith will provide an update.

If you are a home sharing coordinating agency, please pass this opportunity on to your home sharing providers.

The call will be moderated by Brenda Gillette, CEO, BC CEO Network. Speakers on this call will include:

- **Dr. Daniele Behn Smith, Deputy Provincial Health Officer**
- **Ross Chilton, CEO, Community Living BC**
When: Tuesday, January 26
Time: 1:35 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. (Vancouver time) How to call in:
- Vancouver – 604-681-0260 Elsewhere – 1-877-353-9184 Participant code: 87916#
- ***Special instructions:*** *Due to the number of expected participants, please begin to dial in as early as 1:25 p.m.*

Ernie Baatz

Executive Director

Spectrum Society for Community Living

Express yourself. Build your network. Find your voice.

www.spectrumsociety.org

cell: 604-644-1474

Be Calm, Be Kind, Be Safe