

Subject: COVID-19 Updates - March 5, 2021 - Vaccinations Now Being Scheduled

Date: Friday, March 5, 2021 at 6:37:17 PM Pacific Standard Time

From: Ernie Baatz

To: Ernie Baatz

Staying Safe and Healthy

It is great that vaccines are beginning to help people stay safe and healthy, but the number of cases in BC is still very high.

Please continue to follow all the basic safeguards that are required to keep people safe and healthy:

- **Stay home if you feel 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.**

Vaccinations for People We Support

For People who live in Group Homes:

Beginning next week, nurses will be calling the homes of people who live in group homes, or staffed residential homes. These are homes where there are typically staff present day and night. If the supported person needs assistance with decision-making, the nurse will call the Representative, Committee, or a family member who can be a Temporary Substitute Decision Maker (TSDM). Once the nurse has confirmed the person is eligible for and consented to a vaccine, an appointment will be scheduled for some time in the next two weeks, with the nurse providing the vaccine at the person's home.

You can help the process go smoothly by discussing the vaccine with your family members and being ready for the nurse when they call. Here is a social story about getting the vaccine that might help some people understand the steps better:

<https://rwjms.rutgers.edu/boggscenter/publications/documents/GettingACOVID19VaccineSocialStoryIDD-F.pdf>

For People who don't live in Group Homes:

Phase 3 (April to June) includes adults with significant developmental disabilities who are clinically very vulnerable. Depending on vaccine supply, we expect many individuals who live in home sharing or with their families will be eligible in this phase.

CLBC provides this overview of vaccine planning:

B.C.'s COVID Immunization Plan

In January the Province of B.C. announced its COVID-19 Immunization Plan, which will happen in four phases. Eligibility for all phases is based on the age you are turning in 2021 and [you can find more details here](#).

CLBC has posted [information about vaccinations on its web site here](#), including how we are working with the Office of the Provincial Health Officer to share the priority needs of our sector. We have been assured that Dr. Bonnie Henry is fully aware of the risk of those in our sector and others. Initially vaccine supplies are very limited, and therefore plans focus first on those most at risk – the elderly and those in “congregate” settings.

Phase 2 (February to March) includes individuals supported by CLBC who live in group homes. We expect these vaccinations to begin very soon. Phase 3 (April to June) includes adults with significant developmental disabilities who are clinically very vulnerable. Depending on vaccine supply, we expect many individuals who live in home sharing will be eligible in this phase.

Planning for this very large, complex immunization plan is being done right now, and more details about this will be coming soon. Everyone in B.C. who wants to receive the vaccine will have the opportunity to get it. You can also read more about B.C.'s COVID-19 immunization plan on [the BC Centre for Disease Control website here](#).

Vaccinations for Staff

Vancouver Coastal Health has announced the process for staff who work in group homes to get vaccines. More details have been sent to all staff.

We are still waiting for information on how Fraser Health will offer vaccines to staff.

Have a safe and quiet weekend.

Let us know if you have any questions.

Ernie Baatz

Executive Director

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Be Calm, Be Kind, Be Safe

