

**Subject:** COVID-19 Updates - March 23, 2021 - Vaccines for People with Developmental Disabilities  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 3:39:07 PM Pacific Daylight Time  
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**Attachments:** image001.jpg

**All people eligible for CLBC services are now in line to get a vaccine by the end of April 2021.**

The press release below describes the full program, but in summary;

1. Government will send eligible people a letter confirming their eligibility. CLBC is confirming up-to-date addresses this week.
2. The person or their family will phone to make an appointment.
3. The person will take their letter to their appointment for the vaccine.
4. For staff and home-share providers, the Health Authorities will continue to expand their programs and we'll keep you informed. This is a separate program.

**CEVs: 3 steps to get vaccinated**

- 1**   
**Your letter arrives in the mail**
- 2**   
**Starting March 29 and onwards - call to book a vaccine appointment**
- 3**   
**Show up & get vaccinated — bring your letter**

**COVID-19 IN BC**

## People deemed clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) prioritized for COVID-19 vaccine

People at higher risk from COVID-19 due to existing medical conditions, such as various forms of cancer, transplant recipients and severe respiratory conditions, will be able to register for their COVID-19 vaccine beginning Monday, March 29, 2021.

The accelerated timelines for B.C.'s COVID-19 immunization plan mean approximately 200,000 people in B.C. aged 16 years and older who are clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) are eligible to receive their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine in the coming weeks. Some of the CEV population will have already been immunized as part of B.C.'s age-based vaccine program (currently 75 years and older).

“B.C. has made tremendous progress on our age-based vaccine program,” said Adrian Dix, Minister of Health. “Now, we are able to expand to those people who are at increased risk from COVID-19 due to underlying medical conditions or various medical treatments. Clinical experts have now determined those who have a high risk of severe illness from the virus and now have the vaccine supply to protect these most vulnerable people.”

Expert physicians and providers in cancer care, kidney diseases and other conditions causing compromised immunity worked with public health and international COVID-19 data to define B.C.'s updated CEV list to ensure those most at risk of severe illness from COVID-19 are prioritized first (see backgrounder).

Those people identified as CEV will receive a letter in the mail in the coming days with information on how to book an appointment, beginning March 29, 2021. People who receive this invitation letter must bring it with them to their vaccination appointment.

If people who believe they are in the CEV group have not received a letter by April 15, 2021, they can contact the provincial call centre or visit the get vaccinated provincial online registration and booking system, which is scheduled to launch on April 6, to confirm if they are on the CEV list. If they are not on the CEV list, they can reach out to their physician or nurse practitioner about their eligibility.

“Since day one of our immunization plan, we have set out to protect those who are most at risk to COVID-19,” said Dr. Penny Ballem, executive lead, B.C.'s immunization plan. “We used clinical evidence from around the world and clinical expertise and patient registries in B.C. to develop this list and look forward to taking another important step forward in our immunization plan.”

Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.'s provincial health officer, said: “Through this additional immunization, we are able to relieve a significant burden from those who are extremely clinically vulnerable to severe illness from COVID-19. This is another encouraging step forward for all of us as we continue to ramp up our immunization efforts.”

The CEV-based booking process will run parallel to the ongoing age-based booking schedule.

This schedule is being accelerated, starting with those born in 1945 able to book starting Wednesday, March 24. The revised health authority eligibility call-in schedule follows:

- age 76 (born in 1945) – Wednesday, March 24 at noon
- age 75 (born in 1946) – Thursday, March 25 at noon
- age 74 (born in 1947) – Friday, March 26 at noon
- age 74+, and CEV population (must have invitation letter to book) – Monday, March 29 noon

**Learn More:**

For the full CEV list and criteria, visit: <http://gov.bc.ca/cevCOVID>

- You have a significant developmental disability, such as adults with Down’s Syndrome and other conditions, that is significant enough that you require support for activities of daily living and you use or receive support from:
  - Community Supports for Independent Living (CSIL)
  - Community Living British Columbia (CLBC)
  - Nursing Support Services program for youth aged 16 to 19

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**Join CLBC’s March 30 COVID-19 telephone update for self advocates and families**

Dear self advocates and families;

Please join Community Living BC (CLBC) next Tuesday, March 30 for an opportunity to hear from Dr. Daniele Behn Smith, Deputy Provincial Health Officer, about the latest health and vaccine information and guidance on COVID-19.

Participants will also hear an update from Ross Chilton, CEO of CLBC. The call will be hosted by CLBC Board Chair Michael J. Prince.

**When: Tuesday, March 30**

**Time: 1:05 to 2 p.m.\* (Pacific Standard Time)**

**How to call in:**

**Vancouver: 604-681-0260**  
**Elsewhere: 1-877-353-9184**  
**Participant code: 37568#**

*\* Due to the large number of participants, please call in at 12:55 p.m.*

**Self advocates and families are invited to submit COVID-19 health questions in advance by noon on Thursday, March 25 to [CLBCInfo@gov.bc.ca](mailto:CLBCInfo@gov.bc.ca) with the subject line: March 30 CLBC Call. This will allow us to answer as many questions as possible.**

We look forward to having you join us! For the latest information from CLBC, [please visit our web pages with COVID-19 information here.](#)

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## Community Immunity

Vaccines do more than protect you from COVID-19, they also protect everyone around you. The more people in a community who are immunized against COVID-19, the harder it is for the virus to spread.

Community (herd) immunity could be reached when a large majority of people in B.C. are immunized against COVID-19. When you choose to be vaccinated against COVID-19, you are helping save lives by protecting your household and your entire community from the virus.

### Lifting restrictions

Lifting [current restrictions](#) will be based on many factors, including:

- Number of people immunized and level of community immunity
- Number of COVID-19 cases in the province
- Health care system capacity

### Layers of protection

Going back to normal life will take time. Even if you have received the vaccine, you must follow provincial health orders and protect others by:

- Washing your hands
- Staying home when sick and getting tested
- Keeping a safe distance from others
- Wearing a mask in public indoor spaces

Together, we can keep each other safe.

**Ernie Baatz**

Executive Director

Spectrum Society for Community Living

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**Be Calm, Be Kind, Be Safe**