

Subject: COVID-19 Updates - March 26, 2021 - Information on COVID-19 vaccinations for individuals eligible for CLBC

Date: Friday, March 26, 2021 at 12:25:44 PM Pacific Daylight Time

From: Ernie Baatz

To: Ernie Baatz

Good Afternoon;

On Tuesday, the Provincial Health Officer explained the term “Clinically Extremely Vulnerable” (CEV) and how people in this category will get vaccinations. CLBC has provided more detailed information below on what people can expect in the next four weeks.

1. The Ministry of Health will send each person a letter confirming their eligibility. Some people have already received their letters. These letters will arrive by April 15, 2021.
2. The letter will provide a phone number to call to make an appointment for your vaccination.
3. Take the letter and your health card with you to the appointment and get your vaccination.
 - a. The BCCDC has published [vaccine planning information](#) for people with developmental disabilities. This answers questions about vaccines, how to prepare for the appointment, who you can bring with you, and what to do if you need help making a decision about the vaccine.

This is the process for people who are receiving services. For staff and home-share providers there will be separate processes led by the Health Authorities.

Please read through the information below, and let us know if you have any questions.

Ernie Baatz

Executive Director

Spectrum Society for Community Living

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CLBC Update



Information on COVID-19 vaccinations

for individuals eligible for CLBC

Dear self advocates, family members and service providers -

This week, the B.C. Government announced that people supported by Community Living BC (CLBC) are being prioritized to receive their COVID-19 vaccination in April. This information was part of a news release explaining who would be included in the “clinically extremely vulnerable” category of people that would be prioritized.

[You can read the announcement here.](#)

This is very good news! Please [check out this short video here](#) with special messages for self advocates from Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer, Nicholas Simons, Minister of Social Development and Poverty Reduction, Ross Chilton, CEO of CLBC as well as other provincial leaders about the importance of getting vaccinated.

We have clarified and confirmed that CLBC clients eligible to be included in the ‘clinically extremely vulnerable’ category are people in either of the following situations:

- You are 19 years and older and **eligible to receive services** from CLBC
- You are 18 years old and **you have been assessed for and have been found to be eligible** for CLBC services when you turn 19

If either of the above apply to you, you will receive a letter in the mail in the first weeks of April from Dr. Bonnie Henry. You must wait for this letter to book your appointment. The letter will explain how to book a vaccination appointment.

CLBC is working as quickly as possible to help the Provincial Health Officer’s team get the information they need to notify people eligible for CLBC support. This is a big project – there are more than 23,000 people who are eligible for supports. However, teams are working very quickly to compile the information, create and send letters. You should expect to receive your letter by mid-April. We are working hard on it. Thank you for your patience!

If you are a family member or a service provider, please help those you support to use this letter to book their appointment. All instructions will be in the letter. The person receiving the vaccination will need to take this letter with them to their appointment.

In the next couple of weeks, a provincial call centre and an online registration and booking system will open. You will be able to find that information at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/plan>, but we will also send out another note to everyone as soon as we have those details.

The BCCDC has published [vaccine planning information](#) for people with developmental

disabilities. This answers questions about vaccines, how to prepare for the appointment, who you can bring with you, and what to do if you need help making a decision about the vaccine.

COVID-19 immunization clinics have all been provided with information about special considerations that they may need to take into account to ensure a positive and safe experience for individuals with developmental disabilities. All individuals going to a COVID-19 immunization clinic may bring a trusted friend, family member, or caregiver with them to support them through the process.

At this time, only adults with developmental disabilities will get the vaccine. Family members and caregivers will receive their vaccinations as part of the population age groups in the immunization plan.

If you have a question about this process for CLBC, you can call 604-733-2655 or toll free at 1-866-780-2655 or email CLBC_Vaccine@gov.bc.ca. Please note, these lines are for general questions about this process. We cannot book an appointment for you at this number.

Sincerely,

John Stinson

VP, Regional Operations

Community Living BC