

Subject: Covid-19 Updates - October 21, 2021 - Vaccination Mandates in BC

Date: Thursday, October 21, 2021 at 8:56:05 AM Pacific Daylight Time

From: Ernie Baatz

To: Ernie Baatz

Vaccination Mandates

In BC, there are two types of Vaccine Mandates being implemented to reduce the spread of Covid-19:

1. Government has implemented mandates using Public Health guidelines to determine where the risk of transmission makes a mandate necessary for the safety of workers and patients.
2. Employers have implemented their own mandates where they want to protect their workers, customers and the public.

The government first mandated that all workers in Long Term Care and Assisted Living be vaccinated because they are working with both the most vulnerable population – older British Columbians, and in the most risky environment – congregate care settings where 50 to 200 people are living in one building.

Later, the government ordered a second mandate covering acute care settings and community care settings. This order also covers services funded by contracts with Health Authorities. Spectrum provides some services funded by the Fraser Health Authority. These services are now mandated to be provided by staff that are fully vaccinated. Staff who are not fully vaccinated as of October 25, 2021 cannot work. The full order is here on the web:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-hospital-and-community-vaccination-status-information-preventive-measures.pdf>

There are provisions in the order for employees who are in the process of completing their vaccinations. Employees who are not vaccinated and not getting vaccinated are to be put on unpaid leave of absence. The only exemptions that can be considered for employees are due to a medical deferral. More information on the process for getting a medical deferral is here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/health/about-bc-s-health-care-system/office-of-the-provincial-health-officer/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine-medical-deferral-form.pdf>

In community social services, government is also considering a mandate. Many of the people we support are older (the greatest risk factor) and some have other health conditions that make them more vulnerable to serious illness if they catch Covid-19. If government creates a vaccine mandate for community social services, we will share the order, the specific services covered and the timelines for implementation.

Vaccine Status and Safety Measures

As we discussed in our October 8, 2021 Update, we are following provincial health guidelines on safety while we help people we support to resume their community activities and social connections. We are reviewing all services to identify risks and developing strategies unique to each situation.

Vaccination and Workplace Discussions

Vaccines, their safety and their effectiveness are popular debates on social media and with your family and friends, but these debates should not be happening when you are at work. For people that have questions about the vaccine, Vancouver Coastal Health has this page: <http://www.vch.ca/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine/vaccine-hesitancy> and says that people should talk to a doctor if they have particular concerns about their own health and vaccines.

Vaccination is the most important preventive measure

[From the Provincial Health Order] Vaccination is safe, very effective, and the single most important preventive measure health professionals, visitors to hospitals, providers of care or services in hospital or community settings, and the staff or contractors of an organization which provides health care or services in hospital or community settings can take to protect patients, residents and clients, and the health and personal care workforce, from infection, severe illness and possible death from COVID-19. You can still get started or complete your vaccination at a local clinic. Vaccination clinics no longer require appointments.

You can find a nearby vaccination clinic by following these links:

In Vancouver Coastal Health: <http://www.vch.ca/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine> Fraser Health clinics are here: <https://www.fraserhealth.ca/vax>

CLBC Teleconference for Families and Self-Advocates CALL DETAILS

When: Thursday, October 21, 2021
Time: 3:05 – 4 p.m. (Pacific Daylight Time)

How to call in:

Vancouver: 604-681-0260
Elsewhere: 1-877-353-9184
Participant code: 99715#

CLBC Teleconference for Service Providers and Home Share providers

Speakers on this call will include:

- **Ross Chilton, CEO, Community Living BC**
- **Dr. Daniele Behn Smith, Deputy Provincial Health Officer**

When: Monday, October 25
Time: 9:35 – 10:30 a.m. (Pacific Daylight Time)

How to call in:

Vancouver – 604-681-0260
Elsewhere – 1-877-353-9184
Participant code: 31340#

Special instructions: Due to the number of expected participants, please begin to dial in as early as 9:25 a.m. PDT.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

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

Unceded Coast Salish Territories of the Musqueam,
Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh Nations.