



December 15, 2021

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To: BC Health Profession Regulators
Doctors of BC
Resident Doctors of BC
Facilities Bargaining Association
Nurses Bargaining Association
Community Bargaining Association
Health Science Professionals Bargaining Association
Ambulance Paramedics and Ambulance Dispatchers Bargaining Association
BC Care Providers Association
BC Seniors Living Association
Denominational Health Association

RE: COVID-19 BOOSTER VACCINATION PROGRAM

In late October 2021 the Immunize BC Project Team, as directed by Dr. Bonnie Henry, BC Provincial Health Officer, commenced the COVID-19 Booster program to continue to offer the best protection from COVID-19 to residents of our province. Booster vaccine eligibility is based on risk, similar to the roll out of Dose 1, and priority groups are aligned with the recommendations from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization.

Currently, as per Dr. Bonnie Henry, invitations for boosters are being offered to the priority groups listed below. This is based on evidence of breakthrough infection and higher vulnerability to infection with COVID-19, and for those working in facilities where COVID-19 patients are being cared for (acute care, long term care (LTC), assisted living (AL)). The current priority groups which are underway include:

- Those aged 65 and over
- Indigenous peoples ages 18 and over
- Populations that received their Dose 2 on or before March 15, 2021, following a short interval from Dose 1.
- Remaining clinically extremely vulnerable patients (those who are not also immunosuppressed)
- Those who received two doses of AstraZeneca/CoviShield

In addition to these priorities, we continue to offer Dose 1 and Dose 2 to those that have not yet been fully immunized, including approximately 350,000 children ages 5 to 11.

- 1 -



In the last week, LTC/AL and acute care health care workers (those who have not already received a booster due to a short interval between Dose 1 and 2) have been invited into the Booster program.

Important to Note: In early January 2022, Community Health Care Workers will be invited to receive their booster based on their interval from their Dose 2 vaccination.

Action Required: Need to Self Identify As A Health Care Worker

In order for Community Health Care Workers to receive their invites we need Community Health Care Workers to **self identify** so that they can receive an invitation for their booster dose when they become eligible.

There are two steps required:

1. Community Health Care Workers must be registered on the *Get Vaccinated* online system - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/register>.
2. Community Health Care Workers will need to self-identify as a *health care worker* on the *Get Vaccinated* system in one of the following categories:

Category 4: Health Authority Community Staff, Physicians and Workers – this includes all Health Authority care staff, health professionals and workers working in non-hospital areas and includes all other Health Authority administrative, corporate staff who are not included in categories 1, 2 or 3 above, including students.

Category 5: Other Community Staff, Physicians and Workers – this includes all non-Health Authority health providers, staff and other workers in the community health sector, including students.

Please complete the actions listed below under “***What you need to do***” as soon as possible so the *Get Vaccinated* system can send you an invite when it’s your time to book.

What You Need To Do To Self-Identify As A Community Health Care Worker:

Starting immediately all Community Health Care Workers in private settings can follow the link below in order to self-identify as a health care worker.

1. You will need to have ready the following information to complete your self-identification on the system:



- PHN (*Personal Health Number, found on the back of your Driver's License or CareCard*)
 - Date of Birth
 - Date of a previous COVID-19 vaccine (either Dose 1 or Dose 2)
 - Target Population Access Code: emailed to registrants Dec. 17, 2021
2. Go to the *Get Vaccinated* provincial website for COVID-19 boosters, target populations here: <https://www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca/s/d3-target-self-identification>
Note: if you are not yet registered on the *Get Vaccinated* provincial website, you will be directed to a webpage to do so before you are able to complete this step.
 3. After you have entered the information requested on the *d3-target-self-identification* site, you will be redirected to a second page to indicate which specific category you fall into (category 4 or 5). You will be asked to certify that the information provided is accurate. If any of the information you enter does not match what is on file, you may be redirected to contact the call centre for assistance and to verify your information.
 4. Once you complete these steps, you are identified in the system and will be invited when it's your turn to book an appointment. Appointments can be booked in Health Authority clinics or through the many pharmacies involved in the Booster program. Please wait for your invite rather than phoning the call centre. Drop-ins at clinics or pharmacies are not permitted for booster shots.

This self-identification link and access code are intended only for identified health care workers at this time. By choosing to self-identify through this service, you are acknowledging that you have received this code from your employer.

This link and code are not transferrable. If the code is mis-used it will be cancelled and the ability to continue with the vaccination through this program may be compromised. Anyone booking an appointment who is not an eligible member of this group will be turned away at the clinic.

Please wait for your invite. Drop-ins for booster doses are not permitted. Invites will be sent out based on your eligibility.



What You Need To Know For Your Appointment

- Please do not attend the clinic if you are feeling unwell, experiencing COVID-like symptoms, or if you have been asked by Public Health to self-isolate
- Please bring:
 - your driver's license or other photo ID
 - personal health number/BC Services Card, if you have one
 - Employee ID, badge or paystub, if you have one
- You will be provided with a medical mask and reminded to follow physical distancing guidelines while at the clinic
- After you receive your vaccination, please plan to stay on site for 15 minutes to ensure you experience no adverse effects
- Anyone arriving who is not eligible will be turned away

Visit the [B.C. Centre for Disease Control website](#) for information related to:

- Resources for health professionals
- Vaccine safety and effectiveness
- B.C.'s plan for vaccine distribution
- Vaccine approval process
- Overview of COVID-19 in B.C.

Thank you so much for your commitment to the care of our public during this difficult time and thank you for being a part of our efforts to keep all British Columbians safe.

Penny Ballem MD FRCP FCAHS
Senior Executive Lead
Immunize BC