

# COVID-19 Vaccine Update

## VCH Frontline and Essential workers Immunization Program

Date: April 15, 2021  
To: K – 12 school and district staff in the VCH Region  
From: VCH COVID-19 Vaccine Campaign Integrated Operating Committee  
Cc: Dr. Patricia Daly, Vice-President, Public Health & Chief Medical Health Officer

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Under B.C.'s COVID-19 Immunization Plan, vaccine is being provided for frontline and essential workers, in industries where full use of personal protective equipment and barriers can be challenging, where outbreaks and clusters have occurred, and where workers live or work in congregate settings. This priority group has now been expanded in the Vancouver Coastal Health region to include first responders and school staff.

The list of eligible groups of front-line priority workers was created by the provincial COVID-19 Workplace Task Group and Public Health. The list allows health authorities to be flexible in directing vaccine to high-risk geographic areas in order to protect workers and, in turn, protect our communities. Immunizing educational staff — especially in school settings where people with COVID-19 have worked or attended while infectious — will help educators, other school staff, parents, caregivers and students feel reassured that schools are a safe and low-risk environment for COVID-19 transmission.

Yesterday, we began the process by inviting staff from some elementary and secondary schools in communities with recent COVID-19 transmission. Eligible staff were notified directly by their employers with a letter containing details about how and when they may book and attend for vaccination. **This letter is not transferrable. Vaccine doses have been allocated for invited staff only, if others use the link to book an appointment they will be turned away at the clinic.** More school and district staff from throughout the VCH region will be invited next week and in the weeks to come. When it's their turn to make an appointment, they will also be provided with a letter containing clinic locations, hours, and a link for booking appointments at a clinic convenient to them. Please be patient, we expect to have all elementary and secondary school staff vaccinated within the coming weeks.

### IMPORTANT NOTES:

- **School staff includes both instructional and non-instructional staff at invited schools. This includes teachers, student support workers, principals/vice principals, office administrative assistants, librarians/counsellors, building engineers/custodians, food services, on-site preschool and daycare providers, and bus drivers.**
- **Appointments for this program will NOT be booked through the provincial booking platform or call centre.**
- **The letter of invitation and booking link is not transferrable; anyone booking an appointment who has not been invited will be turned away at the clinic.**
- **Please attend one of the clinics listed in the letter.**
- **If you cannot attend a clinic the week your school is invited, you will remain eligible and can book an appointment in the weeks to come.**

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- If you do not see any available appointments on the booking page, please continue to check back as more appointments are added whenever there is capacity.
- This vaccine is recommended for those aged 18 and up.
- 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.
- Come alone, to assist with COVID-19 safety protocols. Physical distancing measures will be in place throughout, including while waiting in line.
- Please bring:
  - your driver's license (or other photo ID)
  - personal health number/BC Services Card, if you have one
  - Employee ID, paystub or letter from your employer
- You will be provided with a medical mask and reminded to maintain 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, such as an allergic reaction.
- Second doses will be offered 16 weeks from the first dose based on provincial and national [recommendations](#). Data from jurisdictions around the world shows one dose of vaccine provides a high level of protection.
- When it's time to receive the second dose, your staff will be invited to receive it as they were for their first dose. It is important they retain the paper record of immunization to bring back to the clinic.
- Provincial orders and guidelines remain in place for everyone, even if you have received the vaccine.

For more information about COVID-19 vaccination in VCH, please visit [VCH.ca](https://vch.ca).