

COVID-19 Vaccine Update

VCH Frontline and Essential workers Immunization Program

Date: April 20, 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

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as our vaccination program for frontline and essential workers continues. Vancouver Coastal Health is committed to our goal to offer vaccine to all elementary and secondary school staff within the coming weeks.

Each week, we will be able to invite staff from additional elementary and secondary schools, and district staff across the VCH region to clinics in their communities. Staff who were invited to a clinic last week but were unable to book an appointment right away will continue to be eligible to receive their vaccine for the duration of the program. Once invited, staff can book an appointment in the weeks to come using the booking link in the letter of invitation provided by their employer, though clinic locations and times may vary from week to week. **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.** If you do not see any available appointments on the booking page, please continue to check back as more appointments are added as capacity allows.

School and district staff who are 40 years of age and older (born in or before 1981) can choose to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at a pharmacy rather than booking at a public clinic. To find an eligible pharmacy and book an appointment, please visit the [B.C. government website](#).

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.
- 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.

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- 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).