

Memorandum

Date: Nov. 22, 2021
To: Health Care Workers in private settings
From: Jo-Ann Tait, Executive Director, Regional Long-Term Care, Assisted Living and Supported Housing
Vancouver Coastal Health
Cc: Dr. Michael Schwandt, Medical Health Officer, Vancouver Coastal Health
Re: **COVID-19 booster vaccinations for health care workers in private settings**

As announced in October Dr. Bonnie Henry, BC Provincial Health Officer, has directed Immunize BC to undertake a COVID-19 booster program to continue to offer the best protection to residents of our province. Booster eligibility is based on risk: including at risk groups, age, interval between dose 1 and 2, and time since second dose.

Currently, booster shots are being offered to our most vulnerable populations, including those ages 70 and over, Indigenous peoples ages 18 and over, and populations that received their second dose on or before March 15, 2021 (including some health care workers).

Health care workers in **specific settings are a priority for a booster shot**. As this program moves forward, we need to be able to invite health care workers across the different parts of the health sector between now and the end of January.

Please ensure to share the information below with your staff as soon as possible:

In order for health care workers to receive an invitation for their booster dose when you become eligible, you must be registered on the Get Vaccinated online system. In addition, you will need to self-identify as a health care worker on the Get Vaccinated system in one of the following five categories:

- Category 1: Long Term Care/Assisted Living Staff, physicians and workers - includes everyone working on site in LTC and AL sites, including students
- Category 2: hospital critical care/emergency department/medical staff, physicians, and workers – all individuals working in the listed care areas (critical care, emergency and medicine wards) in acute care hospitals, including students
- Category 3: other hospital staff, physicians and workers – all individuals working in other care areas of the hospital not covered by category 2, as well as any corporate/administrative staff working on site in the hospital. This category includes paramedics and students
- Category 4: health authority community staff, physicians and workers – this includes all health authority care staff, 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.

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 do:

Starting immediately 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: **H3962N!**

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.

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>
3. After you have entered the information requested, you will be redirected to a second page to indicate which specific category you fall into. 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. 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.

What you need to know for your appointment:

- Anyone arriving who is not eligible will be turned away
- 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:



- o your driver's license or other photo ID
- o personal health number/BC Services Card, if you have one
- o 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

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.

