



March 30th CLBC Teleconference for Individuals and Families Plain Language Summary of Questions and Answers

Who were the speakers on this call?

- Dr. Daniele Behn Smith, Deputy Provincial Health Officer
- Ross Chilton, CEO, Community Living BC
- Minister Nicholas Simons, Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction
- Dr. Michael Prince, Board Chair, Community Living BC

Ross Chilton Opening Remarks:

- We know it is a stressful time with increasing numbers and new variants spreading more quickly.
- We are happy to have 2500 individuals who live in groups homes already vaccinated.
- The Provincial Health Office and CLBC are working together to get individuals supported by CLBC vaccinated as soon as possible.
- Letters have started to go to those we serve that will allow you to make your vaccination appointment.
- Your letter should arrive by April 15 with information about how to book your vaccine.
- CLBC Offices are open and ready to assist.

Dr. Daniele Behn Smith Opening Remarks:

- We are at a very critical and important time of this pandemic.
- More people are getting COVID, so we need more restrictions to help slow down the number of people getting COVID.
- Variants are playing a role because they spread more easily and may make people sicker.
- We still have to limit our social contacts and stay physically distant from others.
- We need to keep these rules in place to give the vaccine program enough time to make a difference.
- We need to stick to our household bubbles and visit with same people outside and stay physically distant.
- You have all worked hard and had to make sacrifices to keep yourself and others safe.
- We are now at a point in the immunization plan for the [Clinically Extremely Vulnerable](#) roll out. You are included in this part of the plan if:
 - You have Down Syndrome
 - You have Cerebral Palsy
 - You have an intellectual/developmental disability (IDD)

- You are using or receiving supports from:
 - Community Supports for Independent Living (CSIL)
 - Community Living British Columbia (CLBC):
 - You are 19 years or older and receive supports from CLBC or are 18 years and older and have been assessed for and found to be eligible for CLBC supports
 - Nursing Support Services program for youth 16 years and older

If you are 16 years or older and your condition is listed but you are not currently using the support services listed, you can still receive priority for the vaccine through consultation with your health care provider.

- You can find updated information about vaccines for people who are clinically vulnerable here <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/cev>
- The health system has received a list of people from CLBC and letters are being mailed to let you know how to book your vaccine.
- It is important to wait until April 15th to see if the letter comes before calling to ask about your letter.
- If April 15th comes and a letter has not arrived, there will be a number you can call to see if your name is on the central list. [NOTE: The provincial call centre number is 1-833-838-2323]
- If you don't receive a letter and you are not on the list, go see your doctor or health care provider to discuss your condition. They will have the form needed to give you a letter.
- All the provincial privacy and personal information rules are being followed. Your health information is safe and not being shared.
- Right now, we don't have enough supply to vaccinate people from the same households together.
- The goal is to vaccinate everyone as quickly as possible.

Question - How is CLBC ensuring people are on the list? What database will ensure that no one "falls through the cracks"? When should I expect a letter?

Answer:

- CLBC, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction are working together to make sure we have your up to date information and address.
- You will still get a letter even if you are not currently receiving supports from CLBC.
- You should receive your letter by April 15th.

Question - My 23 year old daughter has Down Syndrome and Diabetes Type 1 with a Medtronic fully auto insulin pump with CGM sensor because her BG is very difficult to control. Does this prioritize her letter/appointment date?

Answer from Dr. Behn Smith:

- No, everyone listed in the [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) category has the equal priority to get their vaccine.
- There are no sub-categories that get the vaccine before others.

Question - If I don't receive the letter and am not on the list? Can I still register with my CLBC contract or eligibility letter instead?

Answer from Dr. Behn Smith:

- No, only 2 specific letters can get you a spot and those are:
 1. Invitation letter - this one should reach the majority of people served by CLBC
 2. An attestation letter from a health care provider like your doctor (this is a special letter from a health care professional that says your condition is included).

Question - We recently moved and I don't think we updated our address with CLBC. Are we too late and, if so, what should we do to ensure our daughter receives the letter from the Ministry of Health or the local health region?

Answer from Ross:

- CLBC worked with the Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction (where your PWD payments come from) to make sure we had updated addresses.
- You can also get in touch with your CLBC office to update your address.

Question - What contact number can people call with questions or to book appointment for COVID vaccine?

Answer from Dr. Behn Smith:

- All the information, including the number for booking your vaccine, will be in your letter.
- If you don't receive a letter, there will also be a provincial number to call. This number is still coming and will be posted on the [BC Centre for Disease Control](#) website. [NOTE: That number is now posted and it is 1-833-838-2323]
- We also expect to have the online booking system up and running by the week of April 6th.
- **Update-** the [online booking get vaccinated](#) system is now up and running here <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated.html>

Question - We have four caregivers that come and go from our home and the homes of others sometimes on a daily basis. Can they also get the shot? When do my mom and dad get to have the shots if they aren't old yet?

Answer from Dr. Behn Smith:

- Caregiver and family members need to follow the aged based vaccination schedule.
- You can visit the [BC Government website here](#) to find out when each age group can book their vaccine.
- Everyone 18 years and older who wants the vaccine will get it by July.
- We will all need a second dose of the vaccine too.
- The second dose will happen approximately 4 months after your first shot.

Question - When I book my appointment, where will I get my vaccine? Do the community clinics have any special considerations in place for giving vaccinations to people with developmental disabilities?

Answer from Ross:

- It is best if you can come to the designated vaccine clinic set up in your community.
- If this is not possible, then it will be important to explain your situation when you book your vaccine appointment to see if accommodations can be made.

Question - I don't have a representation agreement for my daughter and she is unable to give consent. Will she still be able to get the shot? What should we do?

Answer from Ross:

- If you are not able to give consent to receive the vaccine, you will need to have a temporary substitute decision maker sign a consent form. This could be a parent or sibling.
- You can find the [vaccine consent form](#) on the [BC Centre for Disease Control](#) website.
- If you need support with decision making this might be a good time to visit the [Nidus website to learn about Representation Agreements.](#)

Question - My caregiver will be bringing our son for his shot. He is unable to give consent. What do they need to bring?

Answer from Dr. Behn Smith:

- If you need support to give consent, it is important to bring a [completed vaccine consent form](#) with you to your appointment.
- You can find more information about [informed consent and the Covid-19 vaccine on the Public Guardian and Trustee website here](#)

Question- Is it known at this time which vaccine will be used for these vaccinations? Can I choose to wait for a vaccine that is less risky for me? Will I still be able to go places if choose to wait for a particular vaccine?

Answer from Dr. Behn Smith:

- There are 2 types of COVID-19 vaccines in BC– 1. mRNA vaccine and 2. viral vector-based vaccine
- The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are mRNA vaccines.
- AstraZeneca, COVISHIELD and Janssen (owned by Johnson & Johnson) vaccines are a type of vaccine called a viral vector vaccine.
- We are pausing the use of AstraZeneca for people under the age of 55 so we can gather more information about a possible safety risk.
- It is more likely that you will receive the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine.
- All vaccines are effective and work well.
- We are working hard to get enough people vaccinated so we have community immunity so the virus can't spread.
- The vaccine works well to keep you from getting severe COVID-19, but you must wait 2 weeks after your vaccine for maximum protection.
- Some people who have been vaccinated can still get COVID, but it is mild and not as dangerous.

Question - For People with Life Health Conditions or unique conditions like Marfan Syndrome and Type Two Diabetes? What is Best COVID Vaccine?

Answer from Dr. Behn Smith:

- The vaccines are effective and safe.
- When you go to the vaccine clinic you can feel very confident that you are getting a good vaccine that will help keep you and your community safe from the virus.
- We are really lucky to see great success with the mRNA vaccine with all groups of people.
- The vaccine will give you personal protection and community protection.
- We need enough people vaccinated to get community immunity, then the numbers will start going down.
- When the numbers go down, we can have less restrictions and start to get back to normal.

Question - Do I still have to wear a mask after I get the shot? Can I visit with my friends if they also got the shot? Can I hug people? Will drop-in swimming be open at the Commonwealth Centre (local pool)?

Answer from Dr. Behn Smith:

- Yes, even if you get vaccinated you still have to follow the rules.

- After you get your vaccine you will have protection from the virus, but you can still pass it on to others who haven't been vaccinated.
- That's why we have to wait until more people get vaccinated and we have community immunity before you can start to visit and hug with people outside your household.
- We need the numbers go down and for people to stop dying from COVID-19 before we can go back to normal.

Question - When can we travel again?

Answer from Dr. Behn Smith:

- We have to wait for community immunity and for numbers to go down before we can start to travel again.
- Dr. Henry really does care and has thought about each and every one of us and is working hard to make sure everyone gets through this as safely as possible.

For the best up to date information about the COVID-19 vaccine visit the [BC Center for Disease Control website here](#)

CLBC has a new vaccine information page on our website [here](#)

Stay tuned for details on the next CLBC Teleconference for Individuals and Families in April.

Remember to submit your questions in advance to CLBCinfo@gov.bc.ca

Thank-you!