



## **June 4<sup>th</sup> CLBC Teleconference for Individuals and Families Plain Language Summary of Questions and Answers**

### **Who were the presenters answering questions on this call?**

- Dr. Michael Prince, Board Chair, Community Living BC
- Dr. Daniele Behn Smith, Deputy Provincial Health Officer
- Ross Chilton, CEO, Community Living BC

### **Opening Remarks from Ross:**

- Very good news that more than 70% of BC residents have received their first vaccine
- You will receive a text or email soon to book your second vaccine
- Keep doing the things that keep you safe
- Start making a list of the people you want to see and things you want to do

### **Opening Remarks from Dr. Behn Smith:**

- We have come so far together
- We can now start to reduce those extreme public health measures and slowly bring us back together
- Our public health system understands COVID better now and can help us manage the virus without all those extreme social distancing rules in place
- We still need to be thoughtful and safe
- Questions to think about your own personal safety:
  1. What is my personal risk of getting COVID?
  2. If I do get it, what is the risk that I'm going to get really sick?
- There is less COVID in our communities now
- Our risk of getting COVID is going down AND for those of us who have been vaccinated our risk goes down even more
- Vaccines are not 100% effective, but they dramatically reduce the risk of getting very sick and/or needing to go to the hospital
- We are watching very closely the number of hospitalizations and deaths
- BC is leading the way with the number of people getting vaccinated

**Question- We received a letter allowing our son to be prioritized and get his first vaccination in April. Will we receive a second letter to prioritize him for his second dose?**

**Answer:**

- Everybody who is eligible for CLBC will be a priority for getting their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- A notice to get your second vaccine will come from the [Get Vaccinated](#) registration system.
- If you are unsure call [1-833-838-2323](tel:1-833-838-2323) for help and/or visit the BC government [Get Vaccinated website](#)

**Question- What is the latest guidance on mixing vaccines? Will people who got the AstraZeneca vaccine be able to get it again, or will they need to mix and match?**

**Answer:**

- We are watching the science carefully
- New studies help us make the best decisions about vaccines
- Today the [National Advisory Committee on Immunizations](#) says that, 'yes', it is ok to mix vaccines
- We are studying AstraZeneca very carefully
- People who received AstraZeneca will be offered a choice of whether to get AstraZeneca or a different vaccine
- There will also be options down the line for booster shots

**Question- My daughter is a high-risk for severe illness due to her genetic syndrome and resultant health issues. In a residential setting, one of my daughter's support persons is eating their meals without a mask on at the same time they are supporting her to eat as she requires feeding. What is the recommendation from Health with respect to being close to someone who requires support to eat?**

**Answer:**

- Workplace safety plans will change to match the current risk of catching COVID-19
- It would be important for your daughter to get her first and second dose of the vaccine.

- If she has received her vaccine, her risk for severe illness goes down dramatically
- There may be people who choose to keep in place certain safety measures. This will be personal choice
- As we move through the next phase of the restart plan there will be new guidance on safety measures like masks and physical distancing
- Things are changing day by day
- It is a good idea to stay up to date on [Work Safe guidance](#).

**Question- Will it be mandatory for staff working with my son to be fully vaccinated?**

**Answer:**

- No, all vaccinations are voluntary
- Vaccine status is personal and private health information
- The best thing you can do is personally protect yourself by getting both vaccines.
- Individual protection and overall community immunity will protect all of us

**Question- I'm wondering when individuals can expect to start receiving their CI services in full considering the Province's restart plan. The plan says we'll return to some normal indoor gatherings in July and even more in September. Can they begin as soon as public health orders allow? Some individuals are still only receiving limited services. Home sharing providers and families have had to provide extra supports during these times.**

**Answer:**

- The goal is to bring us back together slowly while keeping an eye on numbers of COVID and number of people in hospital
- We will start to see services resuming slowly after July 1
- Keep up to date with the [Centre for Disease Control](#) and [Work Safe guidance](#) and the [BC Government website](#)

**Question- Will I be able to do Special Olympics in person this summer? When will I be able to do things with my friends like go to the movies, or to a concert, or bowling?**

**Answer:**

- Movies start on June 15<sup>th</sup>
- Outdoor activities or indoor activities where you are seated and spread out start on June 15<sup>th</sup>
- Concerts start in September
- You should contact your local Special Olympics directly to ask about their restart plans
- Pay attention to the [restart plan on the BC Government website here](#)

**Question- When I can travel outside of BC to visit my family in another province? When can I travel outside of Canada and not have to quarantine when I come back?**

**Answer:**

- On June 15<sup>th</sup> we are allowed to travel throughout BC and the different health regions.
- July 1<sup>st</sup> is the expected date for travel outside of BC.
- It is the federal government that makes the rules for travelling outside of Canada. We will share that information once we have it.

**Question- My brother lives in home share and we haven't been allowed to hug or have him sleep over for this whole time. When is my brother allowed to come into our home? When can he spend the night?**

**Answer:**

- We can have up to 5 visitors indoors now
- July 1- sleepovers can start

**Question- I understand from the last call that CLBC will be extending flexibility on use of respite funds until the Fall. What if we still have difficulty finding respite providers into the winter months?**

**Answer:**

- CLBC understands being able to use respite funding in more flexible ways has made a difference
- We have extended the use of flexible respite and families paying themselves directly until the end of September.
- Families will not be able to pay themselves past September 30<sup>th</sup>
- Between now and the end of September CLBC will be looking at what we can do to keep respite as flexible as possible.

- We need to continue to support the goal of families getting a break in a way that works for them.

**Question- What if I liked the more individualized support and don't want to go back to the day program? Can I ask for things to stay the way they are now?**

**Answer:**

- It will be important to plan with your agency. We won't have more staff, but we can work together to organize things differently.
- Talk to your agency about what is possible.

**Question- When COVID started people with diverse abilities were one of the first people who lost our jobs now that we are restarting what incentives if any will the government to ensure people with diverse abilities also return back to work?**

**Answer:**

- The good news is there are lots of employers who want and have hired people with diverse abilities.
- We are working with Inclusion BC who received funding from government to help people get back to work and those looking for a job for the first time.

**Question- COVID was a time when different parts of government started to really listen to people with diverse abilities and families. Like different ways to use respite, like self advocates being supported to organize events to keep people connected. Also, there was good work with our health system to understand who we are and what is important to us. Is there a plan to learn from this and do more of it?**

**Answer:**

- The pandemic has been an excellent opportunity to work with our health partners in new and different ways
- We are all committed to making the right changes
- We will continue to support Self advocate leadership
- We will start travelling again to listen and learn from you

- Learning from self advocates, families and service providers has been so important during this time
- We learned so much by these calls and by your questions. These calls helped to bring your voice forward
- We will work together to find ways to bring your experience forward on future reports and continue to work together after the pandemic is over

**Question- What is the numbers go up again? Is there a chance that we will go backwards?**

**Answer:**

- No. We will continue to move forward
- We have tremendous vaccine coverage that is making a big difference
- We know how to respond quickly to COVID now
- It's a time to feel hopeful
- There will be future waves of COVID, but we know how to manage it now
- CLBC will continue to have call like this in the fall so we can keep talking about what is important to people and have open and direct communication

**CLBC is committed to having another teleconference call for individuals and families in the months. Visit the CLBC website for more information and updates [here](#)**