



COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE



January 6, 2021

To: Long-Term Care and Assisted Living Managers
From: Dr. Albert de Villiers, Chief Medical Health Officer
Karen Bloemink, VP Pandemic Response and Surgical Strategy

Re: COVID-19 Immunization Clinics in Long Term Care and Assisted Living

We are pleased to announce that we will commence onsite COVID-19 immunization clinics at long term care and assisted living facilities (LTC & AL) beginning in January 2021.

Please note: [Provincial Health Orders and directions](#) remain in place for all individuals, even if they have received the vaccine.

COVID-19 Immunization Clinics at Long Term Care and Assisted Living Facilities

All eligible LTC & AL residents, employees, medical staff, and essential visitors are among the priority groups to be offered the COVID-19 vaccine in January. A team of Interior Health immunizers will partner with you in setting up an immunization clinic at your site. Your assistance is required to ensure your onsite immunization clinic is effective in immunizing all eligible and consenting individuals.

Action! Review COVID-19 Vaccine Checklist for LTC & AL

Review the attached COVID-19 Vaccine Checklist for LTC & AL in preparation for your onsite immunization clinic.

Action! Obtain Physicians' Orders for COVID-19 Vaccine

Obtain physicians' [orders for COVID-19 vaccinations for long term care](#) or assisted living as per routine processes. The most Responsible Physicians (MRP) will determine if residents are clinically eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Action! Obtain Informed Consent for COVID-19 Vaccines

We understand residents and their families, Substitute Decision Makers (SDMs), employees, medical staff, and essential visitors may have questions about these new vaccines. In order to give informed consent, they should be provided as soon as possible with the following letter or email template customized for your site.

1. **Letter Template for Residents:** to communicate with residents who are capable of providing verbal informed consent for themselves.
2. **Email Template for Families/SDMs:** to communicate with families/SDMs to inform them of the immunization clinic and obtain written/verbal informed consent for COVID-19 vaccination for their family member.
3. **Email Template for Essential Visitors:** to communicate with essential visitors to inform them of the immunization clinic and receive their confirmation to be immunized.
4. **Email Template for Employees and Medical Staff:** to communicate with employees and medical staff to inform them of the immunization clinic and receive their confirmation to be immunized.

COVID-19 Vaccines: Effectiveness and Safety for Resident Populations

We understand that many residents, families, and staff may have questions about COVID-19 vaccines.

After rigorous reviews of scientific evidence, Health Canada has authorized two vaccines: the [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine](#) and the [Moderna COVID-19 vaccine](#). Immunization clinics at your site will administer one of these vaccines, and each vaccine requires two doses to get full protection.

Staff can refer to [Immunize BC's COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions](#) when speaking with residents, families/SDMs, and essential visitors about COVID-19 vaccines. Immunize BC also has an [“Ask Us”](#) page for people to ask questions and view the top asked questions.

The BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) will also continually [monitor the vaccine for safety, uptake, and effectiveness](#).