

memo



To: Agency-Wide/NACL Board of Directors

From: Graham Morry, Executive Director

Date: May 26, 2021

Re: CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE

Current Situation

Hi again, everyone. This is our first update after the “circuit breaker” period – and while there’s no denying the restrictions have been tough, there’s also no denying that it’s helped reduce transmission/contraction rates considerably.

Our provincial government revealed its Restart Plan yesterday – which will be a 4-step process to recovery via gradual, cautious easing of restrictions from now through to early September, with proposed milestones in mid-June and the beginning of July if all goes well. **It was made clear that those dates hinge on both vaccination rates meeting specific percentages, and caseloads/hospitalizations continuing to decrease.**

Full details on the BC Restart Plan can be found here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restart>

For now, our current COVID-19 Exposure and Control Plan will remain as-is – and we will be reviewing all Person Centered Plans with persons served to assess the risks associated with aligning their community involvement with these four stages.

As for the latest numbers, BC reported 289 new cases of COVID-19 yesterday (May 25, 2021). Of those, only three (3) of them were on Vancouver Island. The active case count sits at 93, with 30 in the South Island region, 36 in the Central Island region, and 27 in the North Island region.

I know it’s been a tough road for all of us – but every day we’re getting closer to a sense of normalcy. Thanks for continuing to do all you can to protect yourself and others against this vicious virus.

Vaccinations

I’m pleased to report that almost all persons served in our Staffed Residential programs and about 90% of those in Home Share have now received their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

We estimate that at least half of our employees are vaccinated (although actually predicted to be closer to 70%). Thanks to all who have provided proof of vaccination to our HR Department so far, and are continuing to do so.

I know there’s some hesitancy about the vaccines out there, but I want to strongly encourage everyone to consider getting immunized against COVID-19 if you haven’t already done so. The BC government’s website says it well:

“The COVID-19 vaccine is saving lives. Vaccines do more than protect the people getting vaccinated; they also protect everyone around them. The more people in a community who are immunized and protected from COVID-19, the harder it is for COVID-19 to spread.”

HealthLinkBC notes these benefits of the vaccines:

“The vaccines are the best way to protect you against COVID-19, which is a serious and sometimes fatal disease. In clinical trials, those who received a vaccine were 63% to 95% less likely to become sick with COVID-19 and were almost completely protected against severe illness (hospitalization and death). When you get immunized, you help protect others as well, including those who are unable to get the vaccine.”

For more information about COVID-19 vaccines, the BC Center for Disease Control’s website is really comprehensive (covering approvals and development, vaccine safety and considerations, trustworthy information sources, etc.):

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine>

Regarding vaccine safety, the BC CDC site says:

“Health Canada has a thorough approval process that ensures the safety of the many vaccines and medicines we take routinely. This rigorous process is used before any vaccines are approved for use in Canada. Once a vaccine is approved and begins to be used, vaccine safety is continuously monitored to identify any serious adverse events.

It’s up to you whether you want a COVID-19 vaccination. Feeling worried or hesitant is completely normal when something is new.”

This said, I hope that anyone feeling hesitant about getting immunized will consider information like the above when making their decision – especially with vaccination percentages being essential benchmarks to helping us meet those milestone dates for the provincial government’s roadmap towards normalcy.

In Conclusion...

Since the next milestone in the BC Restart Plan is tentatively Tuesday, June 15th, our next COVID-19 memo will come on Wednesday, June 16th (three weeks from now). If you have any questions or concerns in the meantime, please don’t hesitate to contact me anytime via any of the methods below. As always, take care and stay safe.

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