

memo



To: Agency-Wide/NACL Board of Directors
From: Graham Morry, NACL Executive Director and Jeff Virtanen, CUPE Local 606 President
Date: September 17, 2021
Re: CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE

Reflecting on Vaccinations

Hi folks – as we embark on our second fall/winter with rising cases of COVID-19 (largely in people who have chosen not to get vaccinated), it is yet again time to reflect on the importance of all of us to be vaccinated in order to protect those who are most vulnerable.

This joint Union/NACL communique is not intended to judge your decision if you've chosen not to get the vaccine, but to present the facts as we know them – and to encourage people without a bonafide medical restriction to get vaccinated in order to prevent further spread of this virus.

While we respect the individual right to choose what you feel is right for you, we feel in our case that protection of the collective good is the stronger argument. With the provincial vaccine passport system now in effect, our ability to fulfill our contractual obligations will be hindered by employees who are unable to access the services people take for granted. As members of CUPE and employees of NACL, we strongly encourage you to get your vaccines to ensure a healthy, safe workplace and community.

Current Situation

Case numbers on Vancouver Island have taken a troubling turn in the past several weeks. As of yesterday (September 16, 2021), 706 new cases of COVID-19 were reported in BC – 81 of which were on Vancouver Island. Island Health's website indicates our active case count is 581 – with the breakdown being 262 active cases in the South Island region, 258 in the Central Island region, and 61 in the North Island region.

Regarding NACL employee COVID-19 vaccination rates, approximately 73% have provided proof of first dose, 63% have provided proof of second dose, and 27% have either not provided proof of vaccination or responded to our request for such. Thank you for continuing to submit proof to our HR Department c/o Michelle Gan (via michelle.gan@nanaimoacl.com or in person at Head Office) or through your Program Supervisor.

In Conclusion...

With COVID-19 on the uptick and with so much changing on a regular basis, we'll resume releasing these memos every couple of weeks for the time being – and possibly more frequently as deemed needed. In the meantime, please stay vigilant and take care of yourselves/those around you. Feel free to contact me anytime with questions or concerns as we continue riding this fourth wave of the pandemic.

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