

# memo



**To:** Agency-Wide/NACL Board of Directors

**From:** Graham Morry, NACL Executive Director

**Date:** September 22, 2021

**Re:** CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE

## First Staff Cases of COVID-19 Reported

Hi everyone. As the fourth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic increases in intensity and our concerns over the impact to NACL also increase – specifically over fall and winter – we will be ramping up our communications in our continued efforts to achieve 100% vaccination.

This second memo within a week comes because **we have recently had our first cases of employees testing positive** for COVID-19. Two staff in two separate programs have been diagnosed, and neither of them were vaccinated. This highlights the need for each of us to examine our position on this highly-contentious issue.

We have all chosen to work with our most vulnerable citizens, and that decision brings with it great responsibility. Things are getting serious, folks – and I am counting on you to follow the science and get your shots. I welcome the discussion and encourage you to contact me directly if you still feel hesitant.

## Current Situation

As of yesterday (September 21, 2021), BC reported 525 new cases of COVID-19 – of which 61 were on Vancouver Island. According to Island Health’s website, our active case count is 540 – with 319 in the South Island region, 181 in the Central Island region, and 40 in the North Island region.

## More on Employee Vaccination Rates

Please note that the NACL employee vaccination rates presented in last Friday’s memo encompassed ALL employees, including those on Leave of Absence. When we filter those employees out to only include ACTIVE employees, the numbers are as follows:

Category	Percentage
Provided proof of Dose 1	80%
Provided proof of Dose 2	69%
No proof submitted/no response	20%

While these numbers are certainly better, they’re still below provincial averages – which is definite cause for concern. We’re aware that a few employees from the last category apparently have proof, but haven’t yet shared it with NACL’s HR Department.

I cannot stress enough how important it is for NACL to keep apprised of employee vaccination rates; since as noted in last Friday’s memo and above, this can impact our ability to effectively deliver service to our already-vulnerable population – let alone protect the health and safety of our NACL community (and beyond) to the best of our ability.

**Thanks again for continuing to submit proof of vaccination** as you receive it to our HR Department c/o Michelle Gan (via [michelle.gan@nanaimoacl.com](mailto:michelle.gan@nanaimoacl.com) or in person at Head Office) or through your Program Supervisor. Please note that besides copies/screenshots of vaccination cards, **we also welcome receipt of QR codes** acquired through Canadian provincial vaccine card/passport systems – which we then verify on our end using the official provincial apps.

**In Conclusion...**

We will keep sending these memos as significant developments occur, such as what we've reported today. Please take care and stay safe – and as always, don't hesitate to contact me anytime with questions or concerns.

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