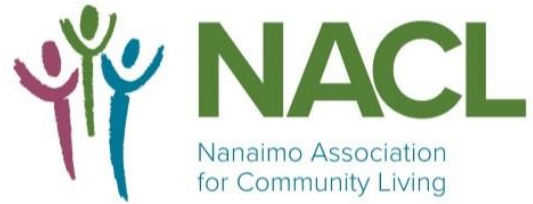


memo



To: Agency-Wide/NACL Board of Directors
From: Randy Humchitt, Deputy Executive Director
Date: January 14, 2021
Re: CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) VACCINATIONS

On December 9, 2020, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for COVID-19 was approved for use in Canada, as was the Moderna vaccine on December 23, 2020. Distribution of vaccines began on December 21, 2020 to various provincial health authorities, with a focus on “high priority populations” (residents, staff, and essential visitors to long-term care and assisted living residences, remote and isolated Indigenous communities, and health care workers in medical settings).

The rollout of vaccines to our sector (adults in group homes or mental health residential care) is set for February to March of this year. Island Health representatives have begun contacting Program Managers to get numbers of persons served and staff who will need the vaccine. I will stay in contact with you as we learn more about the next steps of the process, including how the vaccines will be distributed.

Though not mandatory, we strongly encourage every staff to get the vaccination when it is offered. Staff opting not to receive the vaccine will be required to wear a 3-layer face mask while on shift (per the current COVID-19 Exposure and Control Plan) for the foreseeable future, and until advised by NACL that this is no longer required.

We believe that this vaccine will be paramount to ensuring the safety of our staff and vulnerable persons served, while helping to fight the pandemic on a local and global scale.

Further information about COVID-19 vaccine can be found on the BC Centre for Disease Control Website at:

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