

memo



To: Agency-Wide/NACL Board of Directors
From: Randy Humchitt, Deputy Executive Director
Date: August 27, 2021
Re: CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE

Current Situation

As has become the norm, things are changing rapidly relating to the Provincial Health Office orders and guidelines for navigating the COVID-19 pandemic. Here are the current and future impacts of these changes to NACL:

1. Phase 4 of the BC Restart Plan is not happening on September 7, 2021. As such, the current COVID-19 Exposure and Control Plan remains in effect, including the masking requirements. Whereas we initially extended the “masks on at all times while on shift” directive to September 30, 2021, it is now extended indefinitely.
2. I will clarify that, at this point, the mandatory vaccination status in long-term care and assisted living facilities is not applicable to NACL programs. We will follow the directives of the PHO on this matter, and will provide updates as we receive them. In the meantime, and as always, we continue to encourage all staff to get vaccinated and forward those records to NACL. Since the last memo, there has been an encouraging increase in the percentage of staff who have provided vaccination proof. Our current percentages are in line with the provincial averages. See the section below on how to provide proof of vaccination.
3. The province is instituting a “proof of vaccination requirement” for access to some events, businesses, and services. Proof of partial vaccination (1 dose) is required on September 13, 2021, and proof of full vaccination (7 days after dose 2) is required on October 24, 2021. This may have an impact on the ability of some persons served to access preferred community activities, and/or some staff to support persons served to attend. Program Managers will be reviewing Person-Centered Plans with individuals, family/caregivers, and staff teams to determine what (if any) impacts vaccination rates will have on persons served quality of life. This may also have an impact on the staffing structure, should staff vaccination proof (or lack thereof) prohibit persons served from participating in the community. In cases where there is an anticipated impact, the Program Managers will follow-up with those affected. Further details on the provincial proof of vaccination requirements can be found at the following link:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/proof>

Latest Case Counts

Unfortunately, it seems pretty clear that we’ve entered a fourth wave of COVID-19 in BC. As of yesterday (August 26, 2021), there were 724 new cases of COVID-19 reported in BC, 64 of which were on Vancouver Island. Island Health’s dashboard indicates there are currently 451 active cases, with 194 in the South Island region, 182 in the Central Island region, and 75 in the North Island region.

How to Provide Proof of Vaccination

The quickest and easiest way to provide proof of vaccination is to send a picture, either by text or e-mail to Admin Assistant **Michelle Gan**, at **778-268-2677** or michelle.gan@nanaimoacl.com (or .org), respectively.

Alternatively, you can bring proof of vaccination **to the office** to be copied for your file during NACL's office hours (Monday to Friday, 0830-1600). You may also send proof through your Program Supervisors, if preferred.

In Conclusion...

It seems that the only constant in this pandemic is change – and you have all demonstrated not only your resilience, but also your continued love and passion for the work. It's a remarkable thing.

As always, feel free to contact me directly if you have questions or considerations.

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