

From: [HLTH Patient and Client Relations HLTH:EX](#)
To: [Emilia DiSalvo](#)
Subject: Ministry of Health Response - 1194090
Date: April 21, 2021 6:02:45 PM
Attachments: [Picture \(Device Independent Bitmap\) 1.jpg](#)
[Picture \(Device Independent Bitmap\) 2.jpg](#)
[March 7 2021 - Dr Bonnie Henry Essential Workers Prioritization.pdf](#)

1194090

A.D. Al Phillips, RSE
Business Manager and Financial Secretary
United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of
the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry of the United States and Canada

c/o Emilia Di Salvo
Finance Manager
UA Local 170
Emilia.DiSalvo@ualocal170.com

Dear Al Phillips:

Thank you for your correspondence of April 7, and 10, 2021, regarding COVID-19 immunizations in British Columbia. I am responding on behalf of the Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health and Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer.

I appreciate the time you have taken to write with your concerns. As mentioned previously, age is the single greatest risk factor for severe illness and death from COVID-19, regardless of occupation. Given this the Plan is focused on immunizing those who are most vulnerable to severe illness and death first.

At this time, members of your Union that have not been identified as a separate target group for prioritization remain in the age-based program. Please understand that this is not a comment on the value of the essential services provided by these individuals but is the result of a strategy focused on protecting those who are most vulnerable to severe illness first. Although these members may be considered “essential”, the approach we are taking in BC to prioritize our limited vaccine supply is not solely based on being identified as an essential service. Rather, we use a process conducted by public health experts and involving the review of a number of factors, namely: the capacity to use appropriate PPE and recommended measures like physical distancing, physical barriers, handwashing, and exclusion of persons with active respiratory symptoms. It also includes epidemiologic evidence that strongly suggests particular sectors or occupations are seeing many cases and transmission in the line of duty. This process is underpinned by an ethical framework which applies when vaccine supply is scarce and priority populations must be identified. Please be assured, everyone who qualifies and who wishes to be immunized will have the opportunity.

It is important to note, currently, anyone living or working in BC during the pandemic are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. You do not need to be a BC resident, Canadian citizen or have permanent residency to get the vaccine. This decision was made as part of the roll out Plan to manage the outbreaks in industrial camps as there have been challenges with workers who come in and out from communities around BC and from other parts of Canada, and bring the risk with them to these congregate living settings, accommodations and large

camps, and back home. Regarding your concern about vaccine supplies, as you may know, vaccine supply is distributed by the Government of Canada, and each province, including BC, receives an allocated number of doses of vaccine on a weekly basis. In addition, BC has been dependent on offshore supply to meet the expectations of British Columbians.

I appreciate the opportunity to respond, and hope this clarifies our approach to planning.

Sincerely,

Thomas Guerrero
Executive Director

Improvement through every concern.



Patient and Client Relations
Corporate Issues and Client Relations
Ministry of Health

Warning: This email is intended only for the use of the individual or organization to whom it is addressed. It may contain information that is privileged or confidential. Any distribution, disclosure, copying, or other use by anyone else is strictly prohibited. If you have received this in error, please telephone or e-mail the sender immediately and delete the message

Dear Dr. Henry,
Please see attached letter from A.D. Al Phillips, Business Manager, UA Local 170 regarding prioritization of essential workers in BC's immunization plan.

Emilia Di Salvo, BCom, CPA, CGA

Finance Manager

201-1658 Fosters Way

Delta, BC V3M 6S6

O. 604.526.0441

C. 778-772-7126

ualocal170.com



*This email may be privileged or confidential. Use of this email by an unintended recipient is prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please contact the sender immediately.
Thank you.*