

**From:** [Emilia DiSalvo](#)  
**To:** [Al Phillips](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Ministry of Health Response - 1188226  
**Date:** February 18, 2021 6:03:18 PM  
**Attachments:** [Picture \(Device Independent Bitmap\) 1.jpg](#)  
[Picture \(Device Independent Bitmap\) 2.jpg](#)  
[Picture \(Device Independent Bitmap\) 3.jpg](#)  
[Honourable Adrian Dix, MLA December 19 2020.pdf](#)

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**From:** HLTH Patient and Client Relations HLTH:EX <hlth.PatientandClientRelations@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 18, 2021 5:21:15 PM  
**To:** Emilia DiSalvo <Emilia.DiSalvo@ualocal170.com>  
**Subject:** Ministry of Health Response - 1188226

1188226

A.D. Al Phillips  
Business Manager and Financial Secretary  
United Association of Journeymen & Apprentices of  
the Plumbing and Pipefitting Industry of the United States and Canada  
[Emilia.DiSalvo@ualocal170.com](mailto:Emilia.DiSalvo@ualocal170.com)

Dear Al Phillips:

Thank you for your email of December 19, 2020, regarding the prioritization of COVID-19 immunizations in British Columbia. I am responding on behalf of the Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, and apologize for the delay in communication.

You wrote to advocate that your members working in the piping trades be given priority in BC's COVID-19 Immunization Plan. It is important to emphasize that BC's COVID-19 Immunization Plan is based on scientific evidence, as well as expert advice and guidance from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization, BC's Immunization Committee and BC's public health leadership committee. The first phase is focused on immunizing those who are most vulnerable to severe illness and death, including long-term care residents and the health-care workers who care for them, and remote and at-risk Indigenous communities. Phase 2, starting in late February, expands immunizations to additional vulnerable populations, Indigenous communities and Elders, health-care staff and all seniors over the age of 80. Together, these two phases are focused on immunizing the people who are most at risk of severe consequences of COVID-19.

Age is the single greatest risk factor for severe illness and death from COVID-19, regardless of occupation. Given this, Phase 3, scheduled to begin in April, will expand to include people between the ages of 79 to 75 and work backwards in five-year age increments to include those age 60 and over. Also included in this phase are younger people with certain underlying health conditions that make them clinically extremely vulnerable. As additional vaccines are approved and become available, people who are front-line essential workers or work in specific workplaces or industries may also be able to start receiving vaccines later in Phase 3. Further details about these additional priority groups in Phase 3 will be announced in the coming weeks.

depending on vaccine supply.

Phase 4 is anticipated to begin in July 2021 for the rest of the eligible population, starting with people aged 59 to 55 and working backwards in five-year age groups until everyone over the age of 18 who wishes to be immunized for COVID-19 has had their opportunity.

While your members have not currently been announced as a priority group outside of the age and risk based distribution framework, 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. Please be assured that everyone who qualifies and who wishes to be immunized will have the opportunity.

Starting late-February, a communication campaign will be launched to provide additional details on the registration process, registration timing and availability and immunization clinic locations. Pre-registration for residents 79-75 will open in March 2021 and can be done online or by telephone.

Until a vaccine is available province-wide, it is important to be patient and understanding while waiting for your turn for immunization. To learn more about BC's COVID-19 Immunization Plan, please see: [www.gov.bc.ca/covidvaccine](http://www.gov.bc.ca/covidvaccine). For further information regarding COVID-19 vaccines, including answers to frequently asked questions, please visit the Immunize BC website at: <https://immunizebc.ca/covid-19>.

I understand this is not the response you were looking for, but I hope this clarifies our approach to planning. Further to this, I have included a clear graphic of BC's COVID-19 Immunization Plan below. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

Sincerely,

Thomas Guerrero  
Executive Director



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

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Dear Minister Dix,

Please see attached letter from Al Phillips, Business Manager/Financial Secretary of UA Local

170.



**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](http://ualocal170.com)

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