

From: [HLTH Patient and Client Relations HLTH:EX](#)
To: [Emilia DiSalvo](#)
Subject: Ministry of Health Response - 1191130
Date: March 17, 2021 12:00:53 PM
Attachments: [Picture \(Device Independent Bitmap\) 1.jpg](#)
[Picture \(Device Independent Bitmap\) 2.jpg](#)
[Thomas Guerrero Executive Director COVID Prioritization March 4 2021.pdf](#)

1191130

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

Dear Al Phillips:

Thank you for your follow up email of March 4, 2021, regarding the prioritization of COVID-19 immunizations in British Columbia. I am responding on behalf of the Honourable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health.

I appreciate your advocacy on behalf of the construction industry, and I would like to acknowledge the hard work they continue to do throughout our province. As previously mentioned, members of the BC Construction Workforce have not been included as a separate target group for prioritization outside of the age and risk-based distribution framework. Rest assured that all occupations, trades, and workers are included in the important deliberations for additional eligibility across the phases informed by the latest scientific evidence, advice from national and provincial communicable disease experts, provincial/regional transmission trends, vaccine availability, and vaccine distribution requirements. Everyone who qualifies and who wishes to be immunized will have the opportunity.

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 and as additional vaccines are approved by Health Canada.

In Phase 3, British Columbians will register and book their appointments to receive their first and second doses of COVID-19 vaccine through an online registration tool. People born between 1942 and 1946 (ages 79-75), and Indigenous peoples born between the years of 1956 and 1960 (ages 64-60), will be able to register for an appointment online or by phone by March 31, 2021. Further details about the online booking platform and details regarding the immunization clinics will be made available in the coming weeks.

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 5 year age groups until everyone over the age of 18 who wishes to be immunized for COVID-19 has had their opportunity.

Please note, each regional health authority is responsible for the administration of vaccines within their jurisdiction and they need to ensure they use their resources in the most expeditious and efficient way possible. This may sometimes cause minor adaptations to their processes and

how they proceed with the priority lists. Given the differences within BC's regions, some health authorities may progress through BC's Immunization Plan faster or slower than others depending on rates of vaccine uptake, priority population sizes, and other factors. Additionally, each regional health authority is reaching out to various priority groups in different ways, and the timing for each might vary slightly. We are asking that people be patient and understanding about these small differences between regions.

To learn more about BC's COVID-19 Immunization Plan, please see:
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. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

Sincerely,

Noah Treacher
Director

Improvement through every concern.



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

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Dear Mr. Guerrero,

Please see attached letter from Business Manager A.D. Al Phillips, on the prioritization of COVID-19 vaccine for essential construction industry workers.

Thank you.



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