



UNITED ASSOCIATION
of Journeymen & Apprentices of the
PLUMBING & PIPEFITTING
Industry of the United States and Canada
Local Union 170 – Affiliated with AFL-CIO-CFL

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May 10, 2021

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

Since early in 2020, Local 170 has been lobbying for the equitable treatment of our members around all aspects from access to testing and vaccines. The Essential Worker designation and responsibility our members have borne and the risks associated with being at risk on the front lines should, in our opinion, give us priority. We are happy to report that our lobbying efforts have been successful.

Construction industry workers have been prioritized for vaccine.

The following letters were sent on behalf of the membership, insisting our members and all construction workers be given early access.

- Dr Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer - December 19, 2020
- Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion of Canada - December 18, 2020
- Honourable Adrian Dix, BC Health Minister - December 19, 2020
- Honourable Adrian Dix COVID Vaccine Prioritization March 3, 2021
- National Advisory Committee on Immunization Vaccine Prioritization March 5, 2021
- Dr. Bonnie Henry Astra Zeneca Vaccine Prioritization March 5, 2021
- Dr Bonnie Henry Essential Workers Prioritization - March 7, 2021
- Dr Bonnie Henry Essential Workers Prioritization – April 7, 2021

You can view and read these letters in the Special Messages section of the Members Database and APP for copies of letters sent to government and committees in the past few months).

Effective immediately, all staff working in the construction industry, over the age of 18 and living in the **Vancouver Coastal** and **Fraser Health Regions** are eligible for COVID-19 vaccination. Please see the attachments to this email for the detailed information on how to register. Please note there is a different group access code for each health region, depending on where you reside.

Please do not to share this code with individuals who are not in the construction industry. Our trades have been deemed essential and the nature of our work, with close proximity to other workers, whether it is on the jobsite or in camp, puts our members at greater risk for COVID-19. It is important that these prioritized vaccines are used by those for whom they were intended.

Please contact our office if you require any other information.

Faternally,

A.D. Al Phillips, RSE
Business Manager & Financial Secretary

Date: May 10, 2021

Dear Construction Industry:

I am pleased to provide you with an important update regarding the COVID-19 immunization plan for frontline workers. With a recent increase in vaccine supply coming into British Columbia, we are now moving forward with our immunization program for the frontline workers identified by our Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry back in March. Because you or your organization have been prioritized for registration at this time, we are providing important instructions to follow to register and book an appointment.

Instructions for Frontline Staff

Staff working in the construction industry, **who have not already received their first vaccination**, can register on the Provincial vaccination system by following the instructions outlined below:

First Dose Registration and Booking

1. Visit the provincial vaccination website:
<https://www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca/s/?variant=frontline>
2. Follow the registration instructions. Employees will need the following information:
 - Full Name
 - PHN
 - Date of Birth
 - Postal Code
 - Home Address
 - Email or cell phone to send booking invitation
 - Access Code*
3. For your frontline worker group the access code is: **20006429216**
4. Once you are registered, you will receive an email or text notification with a link to proceed with booking an appointment
5. Click on the link provided and follow the booking instructions (vaccination appointments are available at specific COVID-19 Immunization Centres in the Fraser Health region).

This registration site is intended only for identified frontline workers. By choosing to register through this service, you are acknowledging that you have received this code from your employer. This letter, link and code are not transferrable. If the code is misused, it will be cancelled and the ability to continue with the vaccination through this program may be compromised. Anyone booking an appointment who is not an eligible member of this priority group will be turned away at the clinic.

What you need to know for your appointment:

- Anyone arriving who is not eligible will be turned away
- This vaccine is recommended for those aged 18 and up
- Please do not attend the clinic if you are feeling unwell, experiencing COVID-like symptoms, or if you have been asked by Public Health to self-isolate
- Come alone, to assist with COVID-19 safety protocols, or with no more than one person if you need assistance.
- Please bring:

- your driver's license (or other photo ID)
- personal health number/BC Services Card, if you have one
- Employee ID, badge or paystub
- You will be provided with a medical mask and reminded to maintain physical distancing guidelines while at the clinic.
- After you receive your vaccination, please plan to stay on site for 15 minutes to ensure you experience no adverse effects, such as an allergic reaction.

Second Dose Booking

Once you are registered in the provincial immunization system, you will be automatically notified when you are eligible for your second dose which is up to 16 weeks following your first dose as recommended by the [National Advisory Committee on Immunization](#). It is important that you retain the paper record of immunization to bring back to the clinic when it is time for your second dose.

Questions?

Information about the COVID-19 vaccines can be found on the [HealthLink BC website](#).

The COVID-19 vaccines that have been [approved by Health Canada](#) are safe, effective and will save lives. Vaccines do more than protect the people getting vaccinated, they also protect everyone around them. The more people in a community who are immunized and protected from COVID-19, the harder it is for COVID-19 to spread.

We encourage all eligible frontline workers to take this opportunity. When you get vaccinated, you are all are doing your part to contribute to COVID-19 immunity in our communities.

As a reminder, [Provincial Health Officer orders](#) remain in place for everyone, even those who have received the vaccine.

Sincerely,

Christine Mackie
Fraser Health Vaccine Coordination Centre

COVID-19 Vaccine Update

First dose COVID-19 vaccine available for priority frontline workers in the VCH region

Date: May 11, 2021
To: Priority frontline workers in the VCH region
From: VCH COVID-19 Vaccine Campaign Integrated Operating Committee
Cc: Dr. Patricia Daly, Vice-President, Public Health & Chief Medical Health Officer

Vancouver Coastal Health continues to implement the provincial COVID-19 Immunization Plan, which includes priority frontline workers, in industries where full use of personal protective equipment and barriers can be challenging, where outbreaks and clusters have occurred, and where workers live or work in congregate settings.

Staff at your business aged 18 and older (born in 2003 or earlier) may now follow the two-step process below to register and then book an appointment. **If an appointment cannot be immediately secured, please continue to check back often, as appointments are added regularly.**

HOW TO BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT

If you have registered and experience difficulty booking, please call 1-833-838-2323 (open 7a.m. to 7p.m.) for assistance.

STEP 1: Register

- To register, go to: <https://www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca/s/?variant=frontline>
- On the registration page, enter your personal and contact information and the following access code: **30007253663**
*Please note: **you will not be able to register without the access code.**
- Upon successful registration, you will receive a confirmation number followed by a text or e-mail within 24 hours with a unique link for booking your vaccination.

STEP 2: Book

- Use the link provided in your text or e-mail to visit the online booking page.
- In the online booking process, **select from a list** of all the priority clinics available.
- Book your appointment.

This registration site is intended only for identified frontline workers. By choosing to register through this service, you are acknowledging that you have received this code from your employer.

At this time, second doses are being offered **16 weeks** from the first dose based on provincial and national [recommendations](#). Data from jurisdictions around the world shows one dose of vaccine provides a high level of protection. Once every eligible person in B.C. has been offered vaccine, the interval between doses may be shortened. Please retain your paper record of immunization to bring back to the clinic when it time for their second dose.

COVID-19 Vaccine Update

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE ATTENDING THE CLINIC:

- Please arrive no more than 15 minutes before your appointment.
- mRNA vaccine will be available at this clinic: either Pfizer or Moderna. A choice will not be offered.
- Please bring:
 - your driver's license (or other government issued photo ID)
 - Personal Health Number/BC Services Card, if you have one
- This vaccine is recommended for those aged 18 and up.
- Please do not attend the clinic if you are feeling unwell, experiencing COVID-like symptoms, or if you have been asked by Public Health to self-isolate.
- Wear short sleeves and a mask.
- After you receive your vaccination, please plan to stay on site for 15 minutes to ensure you experience no adverse effects, such as an allergic reaction.

Important reminder: Provincial orders and guidelines remain in place for everyone, even if you have received the vaccine.

For more information, please visit [VCH.ca](https://vch.ca).

Registration & Booking Tip Sheet

Helpful tips for frontline workers when registering and booking your first dose:

1. **Visit the special provincial vaccination website.** This registration link is specifically for frontline workers: <https://www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca/s/?variant=frontline>

Quick Tips:

- This is a special link therefore do not use the British Columbian citizen's link to access registration.
- If you have already booked an appointment using the public link and wish to register now using your frontline worker code, you will need to cancel your existing appointment before rebooking as a frontline worker.
- If clicking the registration link above does not work, try copying and pasting the link into your browser.

2. **Follow the registration instructions.**

Use your frontline worker access code when registering: **30007253663**

Quick Tips:

- If you copy and paste the code into the field there may be extra spaces added, so remember to delete any additional spaces so the code works.
- Do not circulate this code to friends/family otherwise the code may be discontinued.

3. **Once you are registered, you can book.** You will receive an email or text notification with a link to book. Follow instructions to book at specific COVID-19 Immunization Centres in your health region.

Quick Tips:

- You do not need to register for your second dose, you will be automatically notified when you are eligible for your second dose which is up to 16 weeks following your first dose.

4. **Please bring the following with you to your appointment:**

- Driver's license (or other photo ID)
- Personal Health Number/BC Services Card, if you have one

IF YOU NEED FURTHER ASSISTANCE, CALL 1-833-838-2323

Helpful Links:

- Information about the COVID-19 vaccines can be found on the [HealthLink BC website](#).
- COVID-19 vaccines approved by [Health Canada](#) are safe, effective and will save lives.
- [Provincial Health Officer orders](#) remain in place for everyone, even those who have received the vaccine.

COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ

Who is being served by this vaccination program?

Under B.C.'s COVID-19 Immunization Plan, vaccine is being provided for frontline and essential workers, especially in industries where full use of personal protective equipment and barriers can be challenging, where outbreaks and clusters have occurred or are ongoing, and where workers live or work in congregate settings.

Which vaccine will I be receiving?

At these clinics, frontline and essential workers will receive one of the vaccines approved for all adults 18 and over: Pfizer or Moderna. We encourage you to accept the vaccine you are offered, as all of vaccines available for use in Canada are safe, effective, and will save lives.

How will I know when it is my turn to get the vaccine?

Vaccine is being administered through a phased approach developed by the Ministry of Health, starting with priority groups first. Sequencing of these groups is based on recommendations from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) and on our own epidemiological data to reduce the risk of infection to those most vulnerable to severe disease and death following COVID-19 infection, and to protect our health care system. For more information on the provincial immunization plan and priority groups, visit the [BC government website](#). For frontline and essential workers, appointment information will be communicated clearly and directly to each sector and employer.

Can I get my second dose of vaccine at this time?

At this time, second doses are being offered **16 weeks** from the first dose based on provincial and national [recommendations](#). Data from jurisdictions around the world shows one dose of vaccine provides a high level of protection. Once every eligible person in B.C. has been offered vaccine, the interval between doses may be shortened. If you have already received your first dose, we will be providing information soon about how to register for your second. Please retain your paper record of immunization to bring back to the clinic when it time for their second dose.

Are the COVID-19 vaccines safe?

Immunization has saved more lives in Canada in the last 50 years than any other health measure. Canada has a very thorough system to approve new vaccines for human use. Only vaccines that have been shown to be safe are approved. Once approved for use, all vaccines are closely monitored by public health officials and Health Canada for their safety. The COVID-19 vaccines currently used in Canada have been administered to millions of people around the world and have been shown to be both safe and effective.

How do the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines work?

The vaccine enables our body to produce protection (such as antibodies) against the COVID-19 virus. This immune response protects us from getting infected if the real virus enters our bodies. The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines use a new method (messenger RNA – mRNA, the genetic code for a capsule protein of the virus) to help our bodies make this protection.

Can I get COVID-19 from the vaccine?

You cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine. However, if you were exposed to the virus before you received your vaccine, you may be incubating the virus and not realize you have COVID-19 until after

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you are vaccinated. It takes two to three weeks to gain protection from the COVID-19 vaccine. This means if you contracted the virus before getting the vaccine, or within the two-week period following vaccination, you may still get sick from COVID-19. If you experience symptoms of COVID-19 after you've been vaccinated, use [B.C. self-assessment tool](#) to determine if you need to be tested.

Are there side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine?

Serious side effects due to the vaccines were not seen in the clinical trials. The people who received the vaccines in the clinical trials continue to be monitored for any longer-term side effects. A number of processes are in place in Canada to monitor the safety of the vaccines as more people get immunized.

Common reactions to the vaccines may include soreness, redness, swelling and itchiness where the vaccine was given. For some people, these reactions may show up eight or more days after getting the vaccine. Other reactions may include tiredness, headache, fever, chills, muscle or joint soreness, swollen lymph nodes under the armpit, nausea and vomiting. These reactions are mild and generally last one to two days. If you have concerns about any symptoms you develop after receiving the vaccine, speak with your health-care provider or call 8-1-1 for advice.

It is important to stay in the clinic for 15 minutes after getting any vaccine because about 1 in a million people can have a life-threatening allergic reaction called anaphylaxis. This may include hives, difficulty breathing, or swelling of the throat, tongue or lips. Should this reaction occur, the health-care providers on site are prepared to treat it. If symptoms develop after you leave the clinic, call 9-1-1 or your local emergency number. Always report serious or unexpected reactions to your health-care provider.

What is the rate of side effects, and should we consider scheduling changes to accommodate a percentage of people who will need time off to recover?

Most people experience mild side effects, such as a sore arm, that would not typically interrupt work. We have vaccinated all the staff at a variety of workplaces and have not seen a situation where a large percentage needed time off to recover from vaccination.

Who should not get the vaccine?

You should not get the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine if you have a serious allergy (anaphylaxis) to:

- Those who have a serious allergy to polyethylene glycol (PEG)
- A previous dose of a COVID-19 vaccine or to any part of the vaccine

Tell your health-care provider if you have had anaphylaxis but no cause was found after seeing an allergy specialist, or if you had anaphylaxis before and did not get seen by an allergy specialist.

Are there additional considerations to getting the vaccine?

Speak with your health care provider if you:

- Have an immune system weakened by disease or medical treatment;
- Have an autoimmune condition;
- Are pregnant, may be pregnant or are planning to become pregnant;
- Are breastfeeding;

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- Have received a monoclonal antibody or convalescent plasma for treatment or prevention of COVID-19;
- Have received a vaccine in the last 14 days; or
- Have symptoms of COVID-19.

I already had COVID-19. Do I still need the shot?

If you had, or may have had, COVID-19 you should still get the vaccine. This is because you may not be immune to the virus that causes COVID-19 and could get infected and sick again.

How are the vaccines given?

The vaccines are given by injection as a series of two doses. It is important to get both doses of the vaccine for full protection. Second doses will be offered 16 weeks from the first dose based on provincial and national [recommendations](#). Data from jurisdictions around the world shows one dose of vaccine provides a high level of protection. When it's time to receive your second dose, you will be invited to receive it as you were for your first. Please retain your paper record of immunization to bring back to the clinic with you at that time.

What if I choose not to get vaccinated?

Getting the vaccine is not mandatory, and whether you choose to get the vaccine will not affect your access to health care services, nor employment or housing status. However, we encourage everyone who can do so to get the vaccine, as it will help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and save lives by preventing disease, especially for people most likely to have severe illness or die. If enough people get vaccinated, it makes it difficult for the disease to spread. We hope that as more Canadians get vaccinated, we can return to activities that haven't been possible during the pandemic.

As an employer, am I able to get a list of my employees who attended a vaccination clinic?

Patient privacy is protected under the provincial Health Act, so we are not able to share a list of who attended each clinic.

Do I need to continue wearing a mask and follow social distancing measures after I receive my vaccine?

Yes, public health orders, restrictions and guidelines remain in place for everyone, regardless if you have received the vaccine. Provincial guidelines on what those who have been vaccinated can and cannot do are current in development. At this time, it will still be important to wash your hands, adhere to physical distancing guidelines, wear a mask, and stay home when sick, even after receiving the vaccine.

Data is still being gathered around the world about how long the protection lasts from COVID-19 vaccines or how well they work in preventing asymptomatic infection or reducing transmission of the virus. This means that all current enhanced safety measures and COVID-19 protocols will stay in place until a significant percentage of the population has been vaccinated for COVID-19 or until it is deemed safe to relax those rules.

Can I travel once I received the vaccine?

Federal and provincial health orders and guidelines remain in place for everyone, even if you have received the vaccine. Learn more about [province-wide](#) and [federal restrictions](#).

COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ

If I am eligible to be vaccinated but I am not a resident of B.C., can I still be vaccinated?

Yes, everyone living in B.C. will have the opportunity to be immunized, as long as the vaccine is recommended for them. That means that groups such as temporary foreign workers, international students, people who are not permanent residents of Canada, and people who recently moved to B.C. will be able to get the COVID-19 vaccine.