

August 9, 2021

Dear education partners,

As a new school year draws near, we want to ensure that every employee and student age 12 or older (born in 2009 or earlier) who wants to be vaccinated against COVID-19 has the ability to do so. The information in this letter will help local and international students and staff understand how and where to be immunized.

Because of the number of primary and secondary institutions in the region, Island Health is unable to provide on-site clinics. However, immunization clinics are easily accessible in all communities.

Staff or students who have not received any COVID-19 vaccine can book an appointment in advance, **or** simply walk-in to any COVID-19 immunization clinic within Island Health to receive their first or second dose quickly and easily. Second doses will be given 28 days or more after the first dose.

For those wishing to make an appointment, please go to www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca or call 1-833-2323. A complete list of immunization clinics is available online at: <https://covid19.islandclinics.ca/>.

Anyone who received 1 or more COVID-19 vaccines in another province or country should submit their vaccination record to B.C.'s health system to determine if they require additional immunization. This is particularly important for international students, as they may have received vaccines not currently approved by the World Health Organization, and additional vaccination may be recommended in some cases.

There are three easy steps to submitting a vaccination record and determining vaccination needs. **As the review process can take time, we recommend completing this process as soon as possible.**

1. Register online at getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca or by phone at 1-833-838-2323.
2. Submit official vaccination record at immunizationrecord.gov.bc.ca
3. Be notified about COVID-19 vaccination needs.

Help is available in other languages. Service is available daily from 7 am - 7 pm, or from 9 am - 5 pm on holidays. To speak with someone please call 1-833-838-2323. Telephone service for the deaf is available at 711. The B.C. government's [vaccination website](#) is also available in languages other than English.

Thank-you for your partnership and support of the COVID-19 immunization effort.

Warmest regards,

Dr. Michael Benusic, Medical Health Officer and Physician Lead for Mass Immunization Operations
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