

# COVID-19 Vaccine Update

## First dose of COVID-19 vaccine available for youth aged 12–17

Date: May 20, 2021

To: Families in the Vancouver Coastal Health region

From: VCH COVID-19 Vaccine Campaign Integrated Operating Committee

Cc: Dr. Patricia Daly, Vice-President, Public Health & Chief Medical Health Officer

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### Important Information – Please Translate

這是一份重要資訊 — 請找人為您翻譯

这是一份重要信息 — 请找人为您翻译

Mahalagang Impormasyon - Paki salin sa sariling wika

Thông tin quan trọng - Xin tìm phiên dịch

ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ-ਮਿਹਰਬਾਨੀ ਕਰਕੇ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕਰੋ/ਕਰਵਾਓ

महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी - कृपया अनुवाद करें

Información importante - Por favor traducir

重要な情報-翻訳してください

중요한 정보 - 번역 부탁드립니다

معلومات مهمة - الرجاء الترجمة

اطلاعات مهم - لطفا ترجمه کنید

Важная информация - переведите, пожалуйста

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) continues to follow the Provincial COVID-19 Immunization Plan.

Registration is now open for all 12- to 17-year-olds in the VCH region to book an appointment to receive their first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, approved earlier this month by Health Canada for this age group.

With this new age cohort, vaccination is now available for everyone in the VCH region aged 12 and older (born in 2009 or earlier) and it's important for everyone who is eligible to register and get vaccinated. Parents, grandparents and guardians who have not yet been vaccinated should also register now. COVID-19 vaccines are saving lives, keeping people healthy and helping us get back to our usual activities.

**Please note: registration and booking is a two-step process.**

### HOW TO BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT

#### STEP 1: REGISTER

Visit [www.gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated](http://www.gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated) or call 1-833-838-2323 and provide the following information:

- First and last name

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- Date of birth
- Postal Code
- Personal Health Number
- E-mail address or phone number

Parents or guardians can register to book an appointment for children aged 12-17, or youth may also book their own appointments; youth aged 12-17 do not need parental consent to receive a vaccination.

## **STEP 2: BOOK AN APPOINTMENT**

You will be notified by e-mail or text when it's time for you to book an appointment. If you experience difficulty booking, please call 1-833-838-2323 (open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.) for assistance.

After registering each child, parents or guardians who have already booked a vaccination appointment for themselves or for one child can bring all registered children aged 12-17 to the appointment to receive a shot.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Is this vaccine safe?**

Safety and efficacy of Pfizer vaccine has been assessed in all ages, including children 12-17 years of age.

### **How much will the vaccine cost?**

The COVID-19 vaccine is free for everyone in B.C.

### **Why is it important to get vaccinated?**

If a majority of British Columbians get the COVID-19 vaccine, this will reduce transmission and help us get back to our usual activities.

### **Once I've been vaccinated do I still have to follow public health orders?**

Until herd immunity is reached, we all need to continue to protect each other by following public health orders and:

- Washing our hands
- Staying home when sick
- Staying physically distant from people we don't know
- Wearing a mask in public indoor spaces

### **When will I get my second dose?**

Following provincial and national [recommendations](#), we are currently offering second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine 16 weeks after the first dose. Once everyone in B.C. who is eligible has been offered their first dose, the interval may be shortened.