

Fern, Chelsea CITZ:EX

s.17

From:
Sent: September 8, 2021 2:08 PM
To: Nash, Amber PREM:EX
Subject: Fw: New Release Sunday 10.30am.docx
Attachments: Vax Status Discussion.docx; Vaccine proof news release 0833 am aug 22.docx; Proof of Vaccine KMQA 0900am aug 22.docx

From: Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX
Sent: Sunday, August 22, 2021 12:21 PM
To: s.17
Subject: Fwd: New Release Sunday 10.30am.docx
As discussed

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX" <Stephen.Brown@gov.bc.ca>
Date: August 22, 2021 at 10:52:31 AM PDT
To: "Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX" <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>, "Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX" <Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca>, "Hockin, Amber PREM:EX" <Amber.Hockin@gov.bc.ca>, "Aaron, Sage PREM:EX" <Sage.Aaron@gov.bc.ca>, "Wanamaker, Lori PREM:EX" <Lori.Wanamaker@gov.bc.ca>, "Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX" <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: "Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX" <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>, "van Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX" <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>, "Moulton, Holly HLTH:EX" <Holly.Moulton@gov.bc.ca>, "Ferrier, Jeffrey GCPE:EX" <Jeffrey.Ferrier@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: New Release Sunday 10.30am.docx

Hi All

Here are the refreshed documents based on feedback received (including feedback from JERRI, Education and AEST). These are essentially good to go with the exception of a few areas (highlighted in yellow) that need agreement and the date issue (September 13 or 20th highlighted in purple) subject to discussion below.

I have added a discussion document that tries to address ongoing concerns re security and forgery expressed by several individuals and brought forward to me by Lori. I have worked with Corrie B and just had a meeting with IMSBC to clarify the practicality of one of the options (option 4) which will be worked through today. Options 3 and 4 would push back implementation by one week to September 20th. A key discussion for later today, assuming we

have a late afternoon meeting, is what is the comfort level on moving forward based on one of the practical options available to us with their respective pros and cons. Regards Steve

From: Brown, Stephen R HLTH:EX

Sent: August 20, 2021 1:36 PM

To: Dix, Adrian HLTH:EX <Adrian.Dix@gov.bc.ca>; Meggs, Geoff PREM:EX

<Geoff.Meggs@gov.bc.ca>; Hockin, Amber PREM:EX <Amber.Hockin@gov.bc.ca>; Aaron, Sage PREM:EX <Sage.Aaron@gov.bc.ca>; Wanamaker, Lori PREM:EX <Lori.Wanamaker@gov.bc.ca>

Cc: Henry, Bonnie HLTH:EX <Bonnie.Henry@gov.bc.ca>; Pokorny, Peter HLTH:EX

<Peter.Pokorny@gov.bc.ca>; Machell, Aileen GCPE:EX <Aileen.Machell@gov.bc.ca>; van

Baarsen, Amanda HLTH:EX <Amanda.vanBaarsen@gov.bc.ca>; Moulton, Holly HLTH:EX

<Holly.Moulton@gov.bc.ca>; Ferrier, Jeffrey GCPE:EX <Jeffrey.Ferrier@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: New Release 1.00pm.docx

Hi All

Here are the draft materials for Monday (speeches and event schedule to be developed). These material have been developed with MOH GCPE and reviewed/further edited by myself and Bonnie. Please provide any feedback to Aileen and cc me by noon tomorrow and we will do a second and hopefully final draft by mid-morning Sunday. Aileen and Jeff with develop speaking notes and an events plan over the weekend in consultation with premier's office, Minister Dix and Bonnie. Thanks Steve

COVID-19 VACCINATION STATUS – SECURITY AND FORGERY DISCUSSION

WHAT ARE WE TRYING TO ACHIEVE - KEY PRINCIPLES/CONSIDERATIONS?

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OPTIONS:

As of September 13th, people in BC will be required to show their vaccine status to enter into certain events and facilities.

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APPENDIX: USE OF BC MOBILE CARD

Health Gateway provides trusted access to personal health information, which now includes Covid, test results and Covid Vaccines.^{s.13}

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Key Messages:

Primary messaging

Getting vaccinated is a choice.

You can choose to be vaccinated, to protect yourself, protect your loved ones, and protect your community.

You can choose to be vaccinated to protect kids who can't get vaccinated, and the sick and vulnerable.

By choosing to get vaccinated, you choose to be able to support local restaurants. To attend family weddings. To attend a Lions Game or Canucks Game. To go to spin class or hot yoga. To attend indoor festivals and events. To take in a concert.

This is your choice, and you can make it a positive one.

You have the power. You have the time.

Let's do this. Let's get it done.

You are also free to make other choices, and those choices have consequences.

Our hope is that you make the positive choice - get vaccinated.

Primary – what we are announcing

- Proof of vaccination will soon be required to access certain social and recreational events, services and businesses to help keep protect people from COVID-19.
- We've always said getting vaccinated is a choice.
- s.13
- If you want to keep attending these kinds of events and places, you will need to be vaccinated. Book your appointment today.
- This isn't happening overnight – we're giving everyone advanced notice that this is coming soon, so people can book vaccine appointments and get ready.

- As of September 13th or September 20th, people will need to at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine to enter these spaces:
 - o Indoor ticketed sporting events
 - o Indoor concerts
 - o Indoor theatre/dance/symphony events
 - o Restaurants (indoor dining)
 - o Night Clubs
 - o Casinos
 - o Movie Theatres
 - o Fitness centres/gyms (excluding youth recreational sport)
 - o Businesses offering indoor high intensity group exercise
 - o Organized indoor events (ex. weddings, parties, conferences, meetings, workshops)
 - o Discretionary organized indoor group recreational classes and activities (excluding k-12 schools, before and after school programs)
- The specifics will be outlined in the PHO Order.
- As of October^{s.13}, people need to be fully vaccinated with two doses, with^{s.13} days passing after receiving the final COVID-19 vaccine dose to access these same spaces.
- We will continue to work with businesses over the coming weeks, so they have the support and information they need before this comes into effect.

Secondary messaging:

- Getting vaccinated keeps everyone in B.C. safe and stops the spread of COVID-19.
- B.C. is underway with the largest immunization effort in the province's history.
- So far, close to 75 per cent of all eligible people have been fully vaccinated.
- This is excellent progress, but there is still more work to do.
- Public health continues to closely monitor case counts, hospitalizations, and deaths. We are still seeing a surge in cases in groups of unvaccinated people.
- Roughly X per cent of recent cases are occurring in people who have not been fully vaccinated.
- We know the best way to put this pandemic behind us is through vaccines.
- They are safe, effective and allow us to return to doing the things we love.

- There are people who can't receive the vaccine for medical reasons or are not eligible (under the age of 12)– we need to keep boosting our vaccination rates to protect these people from transmission of COVID-19.

Questions and Answers

What are you announcing today?

- We are announcing that effective September 13th, people will be required to provide proof of vaccination in order to participate in certain social, recreational and indoor activities.
- The initial requirement is for at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine. Starting October 13^s people will need to be fully vaccinated^s 13 to enter these settings.
- This is an important step to continue increasing our vaccination rate across the province and make our communities safer from COVID-19.

Where is proof of vaccination required in B.C?

- Vaccination is required in B.C. in the following settings:
 - o Indoor ticketed sporting events
 - o Indoor concerts
 - o Indoor theatre/dance/symphony events
 - o Restaurants (indoor dining and outdoor patios)
 - o Night Clubs
 - o Casinos
 - o Movie Theatres
 - o High intensity indoor exercise activities
 - o Fitness centres/gyms (excluding youth recreational sport)
 - o Businesses offering high intensity group exercise
 - o Organized indoor events (ex. weddings, parties, conferences, meetings, workshops)

- o Discretionary organized indoor group recreational classes and activities (excluding k-12 schools, before and after school programs)

What will a proof-of-vaccination certificate look like? How would I use it?

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Who did you consult with on the decision-making process?

- Throughout the entire pandemic, we have been working closely with stakeholders across a broad spectrum.
- We know that province-wide lockdowns are hard, not only on businesses, but on people and communities, too.
- That's why these new measures will make sure businesses can stay open and continue to serve their clientele with much lower risk of potential transmission.
- We have started and will continue with a fulsome engagement with First Nations and Indigenous communities over the next several weeks as we move forward with these measures.

How will you get the message out to businesses affected?

- Ministers across government, including the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation are working hard to keep their stakeholders informed and updated with these changes.
- These new requirements will be effective starting September 13 or September 20.
- We will continue to work closely with our partners, stakeholders and business community to keep people informed with the latest information.

How will you get the message out to British Columbians?

- Throughout the entire pandemic, British Columbians have stepped up and come together to keep each other safe.

- These new proof of vaccine requirements will help keep everyone safe and prevent the transmission of COVID-19.
- We will continue to provide British Columbians with the latest information through our government channels.

What are you hoping to get out of the mandatory proof of vaccinations?

- While COVID is still with us, vaccines have changed the way we live and deal with the virus.
- While vaccines have always been a choice, there may be some things people can't do unless they are vaccinated.
- Getting vaccinated protects yourself and your community and it's important that more people get vaccinated to make us all safer.
- Proof of vaccines is an important tool the province is using to boost vaccination rates and help put this pandemic behind us.

How would my privacy be protected?

- We've briefed B.C.'s Information and Privacy Commissioner office on our plan and the process for accessing COVID-19 vaccination information.
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- No copy or record will be kept by the business or event, and it is at the discretion of the individual to show the information.

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What steps has B.C. taken in exploring privacy considerations around a pan-Canadian vaccine passport/proof-of-vaccination certificate?

- We have engaged the B.C.'s Privacy Commissioner office on the proof-of-vaccination plan.

- This plan allows us to implement a vaccine requirement in certain recreational and social settings as of **September 13 or September 20**.
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- Government has also been engaging the Information and Privacy Commission on this work.
- The briefings emphasize work being done collaboratively by all provinces and the federal government for a single, pan-Canadian proof-of-vaccination certificate for international travel, with the federal government as the lead.
- The briefings have also included the privacy principles considered for any proposed technical solutions, such as sharing the minimum information necessary.
- We will continue to work with B.C.'s privacy commissioner office and seek advice as we move forward with this initiative and a pan-Canadian solution is developed.

When will this start?

- On **September 13 or September 20**, people will be required to provide proof of vaccination in order to visit indoor social settings like restaurants, bars, high-intensity fitness, and theatres. The first stage will require partial vaccination (at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine) to enter these settings.
- By October^{s.13}, people must be fully vaccinated (at least ^{s.13} days after their second dose of COVID-19 vaccine) to enter these settings.
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- Full vaccination may be required earlier in areas of high-transmission as designated by the local medical health officer.

Will people be using their existing proof of vaccine cards?

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My immunization record is wrong or I was vaccinated outside of BC. What should I do?

- You should update your immunization record if you got dose one or two in another province or country or if you believe your immunization status is wrong.
- You can update your immunization record here:
<https://www.immunizationrecord.gov.bc.ca/>
- It takes 2-3 weeks to update your immunization record.
- If you have proof of vaccination from another province, you can use it to demonstrate your immunization status.

I haven't been vaccinated yet. What should I do?

- If you haven't been vaccinated yet, there are still many quick and easy ways to do so.
- Communities throughout B.C. have drop-in clinics and are open 7 days a week.
- You don't need to register online or by phone before you arrive.
- You can find a walk-in clinic near you here:
<https://www2.qa.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/vaxforbc>
- You can also make an appointment to be vaccinated if that works better for you
- To register and get make an appointment to get vaccinated, visit
<https://www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca/s/> or call 1-833-838-2323

Will a second piece of government issued ID be required to insure a person is who they say they are?

- Yes, people will need to present their proof of vaccination and a piece of government issued identification to enter these settings while the PHO Order is in place.
- For people aged 12-17, proof of vaccination will suffice.

What proof of immunization will be required for non-British Columbians?

- Proof of vaccination from other jurisdictions will be required for travelers visiting the province who are entering the settings outlined today.
- We will be communicating this requirement to other provinces.

- Local businesses will be able to download an easy-to-use reference visual checklist of documents used in other jurisdictions from the BCCDC website^{s.13}
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- This is similar to what many businesses currently use for proof of age.

For out of Canada visitors?

- For foreign travellers, they will need to use proof of vaccination and ID from their home jurisdictions.
- Most travellers now need to be fully vaccinated to enter the country.

How will you be able to ensure that outside of BC proof of vaccination is not fake?

- The proof of vaccination would need to match the format for the relevant jurisdiction, as set out in the document on the BCCDC website.
- Individuals from outside the province will show that proof of vaccination, alongside valid government identification.

What steps will be taken to ensure that those under 12 are not spreading COVID in these settings?

- The best strategy is for those who are eligible to get vaccinated
- While not all British Columbians can be vaccinated, these measures are to assist us in reducing overall transmission in these settings throughout the fall and winter.
- They are based on our strong recommendation that every eligible individual in BC get themselves vaccinated – this is the best way to protect yourself, your family and friends, and your community.

What support will be put in place to support businesses navigating these new rules?

- Throughout the entire pandemic, we have been working closely with stakeholders across a broad spectrum.
- We know that province-wide lockdowns are hard not only on businesses, but on people and communities, too.
- That's why these new measures will make sure businesses can stay open and continue to serve their clientele with much lower risk of potential transmission.
- We expect all businesses to comply with this order and will be engaging and working with them over the next several weeks.

- The Provincial Health Officer Order provides a solid basis for businesses to use this approach and removes any risk of them individually having to defend its use.
- All businesses will be provided with a download showing acceptable proof of vaccine from other Canadian jurisdictions.

Does this apply to patios or just in-door dining?

- This applies to indoor dining, including patios, but not drive-thrus and takeouts

Has any other province implemented a proof of vaccine process?

- Manitoba has the “Manitoba Digital Immunization Card” along with physical Manitoba Immunization Cards. These cards will include your first and last names and a QR code. When scanned with the Manitoba Immunization Card app. the QR code will show that you are fully vaccinated.
- Quebec has a PDF digital proof of vaccination. It shows an individual’s personal information, the vaccines they have received, the result of their first positive COVID-19 screening test if they received a vaccine dose at least 21 days after the screening test, and a QR code containing the above information.

How will you enforce businesses’ compliance with the order?

- We expect everyone to comply with these orders to protect public health.
- We’ve worked with businesses throughout the pandemic and we expect they will comply.
- If there are outliers that don’t comply, we will address it.

What vaccines will be accepted?

- Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty, tozinameran, BNT162b2)
- Moderna (mRNA-1273)
- AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD (ChAdOx1-S, Vaxzevria, AZD1222)
- Janssen/Johnson & Johnson (Ad26.COV2.S)

What supports will businesses be provided?

- Throughout the entire pandemic, we have been working closely with stakeholders across a broad spectrum.
- We know that province-wide lockdowns are hard not only on businesses, but on people and communities, too.
- That's why these new measures will make sure businesses can stay open and continue to serve their clientele with much lower risk of potential transmission.
- We will be engaging with the business community over the next several weeks and providing communication ahead of the September 13 effective date.
- All businesses will be provided with a download showing acceptable proof of vaccine from other Canadian jurisdictions.
- We ask British Columbians to be kind.

Are you concerned about people forging the proof of vaccination?

- British Columbians have gotten through this pandemic by supporting one another, and we trust people will continue to do their part by following these new rules.
 - Businesses will be supported to ensure compliance.
 - It would take a certain kind of person to forge a public health document and put others at risk, just to go to a restaurant.
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- s.13

Why not require proof of vaccination for [x setting] (schools, congregate living incl. shelters or group homes etc.)?

- It remains vital that people continue to have access to essential services, regardless of their vaccination status.
- Getting more people vaccinated will make us all safer in every setting.
- The measures are aimed at reducing transmission by unvaccinated people at recreational and social events and activities.
- People have a choice – choose to get vaccinated to protect yourself, your loved ones and your community. Or don't get vaccinated and stay away from these social and recreational settings.
- There will be tailored plans for schools and post-secondaries, and we will have more to say on this shortly.
- Other businesses or institutions may choose to adopt their own vaccination policies beyond the designated settings, but would be responsible for doing their own due diligence.

Are you still considering extending the proof of vaccine requirement to other settings (incl. health care)?

- We continue to look at all options to protect people in B.C., based on the evidence-based advice from public health.

Will the workers in these establishments need to be vaccinated?

- We aren't making vaccination mandatory for employment at this time, other than in specific areas of the health system starting with Long Term Care and Assisted Living Facilities.
- However, we continue to monitor the data and look at all options to keep people safe in B.C., based on the evidence-based advice from public health.
- We expect the measures announced today will encourage the vast majority of people working in these settings to be vaccinated, in order to continue to attend the specified social and recreational events and settings.
- Businesses or institutions may choose to adopt their own vaccination policies beyond the designated settings, but would be responsible for doing their own due diligence.

Will there be vaccination mandates for workers in other high-risk settings?

- We aren't making vaccination mandatory for employment at this time, other than in specific areas of the health system starting with Long Term Care and Assisted Living Facilities.
- However, we continue to monitor the data and look at all options to keep people safe in B.C., based on the evidence-based advice from public health.

Why didn't you do this earlier?

- Vaccines have changed the way we live with COVID-19 and have helped us greatly in getting back to the things we love to do.
- But COVID-19 is still with us, and more transmissible variants like the Delta variant mean it can spread rapidly, even among vaccinated people.
- Most people in B.C. have stepped up, getting two doses of vaccine to protect themselves and their communities.
- But it is clear that further action is needed to help put this pandemic behind us – we need more protection, in the form of even higher vaccination rates.

What about drive-throughs?

- Proof of vaccination is not required for drive-thru restaurants, as long as the food is not taken inside the establishment to eat.

Why do people not have to be fully vaccinated until October^{s.1}₃ ?

- We want everyone to get vaccinated now and be able to continue supporting these places.
- Younger people have only been eligible to be vaccinated for a few months.
- And summer is a busy time for many. We know things like work and family schedules may make it difficult for some people to find the time to get the vaccine.
- A phased implementation gives people the time they need to get vaccinated, with both doses of vaccine.

Will I need a vaccine passport/proof-of-vaccination certificate to travel internationally?

- B.C. is working with the federal government and other provinces and territories on what a proof-of-vaccination certificate might look like for Canadians for international travel, with the federal government as the lead.
- It is anticipated to be ready this fall.
- s.13; s.16

Will I need a proof-of-vaccination certificate to access private sector supports, programs or services?

- The order will only apply to the list of settings identified in the PHO Order.

If a person is asked to provide proof of vaccination to, for example, access services, business premises or to attend an event in B.C., what should they do?

- If you aren't vaccinated, register for your vaccine now! Or walk-into a vaccine clinic.
- Prior to attending an event or business that requires proof of vaccination, individuals will need to access their proof of vaccination record.
- People will be able to confidentially access their proof of vaccination online,^{s.13}
- s.13

- At admission to one of the designated businesses or activities, individuals will show their proof of vaccination (phone or paper copy) and show 1 other piece of ID such as Driver's licence or BC Services Card to confirm identity.
- No copy or record will be kept by the business or event, and it is at the discretion of the individual to show the information.

Will you introduce legislation/regulation to guide businesses in the private sector that might want to require proof of vaccination?

- No.
- Employers are accountable for ensuring their workers' safety and should have in place COVID-19 safety plans – including a requirement to stay home when sick, and regular hand washing.
- Employers may decide to implement additional safety measures, including the decision to require vaccination for their employees, or specific requirements for staff working in their businesses who are not vaccinated, such as more frequent rapid testing and/or mask wearing.
- Given the higher transmissibility of the delta variant, all businesses should review the adequacy of their plans.

Will the proof of vaccination requirement apply to employees at venues (concert halls, restaurants etc.) covered by the vaccination mandate?

- We aren't making vaccination mandatory for employment, other than in specific areas of the health system starting with Long Term Care and Assisted Living Facilities.
- Employers are accountable for ensuring their workers' safety and should have in place COVID-19 safety plans – including a requirement to stay home when sick, and regular hand washing.
- Given the higher transmissibility of the delta variant, all businesses should review the adequacy of their plans.
- We continue to monitor the data and look at all options to keep people safe in B.C., based on the evidence-based advice from public health.
- The initiatives announced today are to assist in reducing overall transmission over the fall and winter.
- We strongly recommend that every eligible individual in BC get themselves vaccinated this is the best way to protect yourself, your family and friends, and your community.

Will businesses/organizations be able to set their own requirement for proof of vaccine in venues beyond those covered by the PHO order?

- We are introducing a provincial proof of vaccine requirement for designated settings removes the need for these businesses to set their own vaccine requirement.
- The PHO Order provides a solid basis for businesses to use this approach and prevents them from having to defend any action they might have taken individually in this regard.
- The use of additional measures in other settings will be an individual business decision.
- We recommend that any further actions are based on the evidence-based guidance provided by BCCDC.
- Again, the initiatives announced today are to assist in reducing overall transmission over the fall and winter considering the experience of the Delta variance on transmission.

Will post secondary institutions be permitted to adopt their own proof of vaccine requirement that applies beyond student residences and varsity sports?

- We believe strongly in the importance of returning to campus-based teaching for post-secondary institutions this fall.
- We urge every eligible person in B.C. to get vaccinated - this is the best way to protect yourself, your family and friends, and your community.
- There will be a requirement to be vaccinated to live in a post-secondary residence; as well as the requirement announced today for proof of vaccination to access a range of social and recreational settings and services. This requirement will apply to those same settings on post-secondary campuses
- Again, the initiatives announced today are to assist in reducing overall transmission over the fall and winter considering the experience of the Delta variance on transmission.
- Post secondary institutions, like other businesses or organizations, may choose to adopt their own vaccination policies beyond the PHO order, but would be required to do their own due diligence.

Are libraries included?

- No.

What about outdoor events like the PNE and fairs that have indoor components like barns and indoor attractions that visitors attend?

- Proof of vaccination would be required to access designated indoor spaces.
- For example, an indoor restaurant or indoor beer garden.

Fern, Chelsea CITZ:EX

From: s.17
Sent: September 8, 2021 2:08 PM
To: Nash, Amber PREM:EX
Subject: Fw: Updated materials for tomorrow's announcement & Schedule
Attachments: Vaccine proof news release 4pm aug 22.docx; Proof of Vaccine KMQA 4pm Aug 22.docx; 2021.08.23 Issues Scan.docx; 20210823_SN_PJH_vax certification_clean_v3.docx; Monday August 23.pdf

From: Nash, Amber PREM:EX
Sent: Sunday, August 22, 2021 5:18 PM
To: s.17
Cc: Dunnett, Jennifer PREM:EX
Subject: Updated materials for tomorrow's announcement & Schedule

Materials for tomorrow's announcement & Schedule.

Confirming pick up at 10am.

A

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s.13

Key Messages:

Primary messaging

Getting vaccinated is a choice.

You can choose to be vaccinated, to protect yourself, protect your loved ones, and protect your community.

You can choose to be vaccinated to protect kids who can't get vaccinated, and the sick and vulnerable.

By choosing to get vaccinated, you choose to be able to support local restaurants. To attend family weddings. To attend a Lions Game or Canucks Game. To go to spin class or hot yoga. To attend indoor festivals and events. To take in a concert.

This is your choice, and you can make it a positive one.

You have the power. You have the time.

Let's do this. Let's get it done.

You are also free to make other choices, and those choices have consequences.

Our hope is that you make the positive choice - get vaccinated.

Primary – what we are announcing

- Proof of vaccination will soon be required to access certain social and recreational events, services and businesses to help keep protect people from COVID-19.
- We've always said getting vaccinated is a choice.
- And getting vaccinated is the best choice to protect yourself, the people you love, and to ensure you can continue to participate in these public and private events and settings.
- If you want to keep attending these events and settings, you will need to be vaccinated. Book your appointment today.
- This isn't happening overnight – we're giving everyone advanced notice that this is coming soon, so people can book vaccine appointments and get ready.
- As of September 13th, people will need to at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine to enter these spaces:
 - o Indoor ticketed sporting events
 - o Indoor concerts

- o Indoor theatre/dance/symphony events
- o Restaurants (indoor dining)
- o Night Clubs
- o Casinos
- o Movie Theatres
- o Fitness centres/gyms (excluding youth recreational sport)
- o Businesses offering indoor high intensity group exercise
- o Organized indoor events (ex. weddings, parties, conferences, meetings, workshops)
- o Discretionary organized indoor group recreational classes and activities (excluding k-12 schools, before and after school programs)
- The specifics will be outlined in the PHO Order.
- As of October^{s.13} people need to be fully vaccinated with two doses, with^{s.13} days passing after receiving the final COVID-19 vaccine dose to access these same spaces.

Individuals will be able to confidentially access their proof of vaccination through a secure website. A web link will be provided and publicized widely before September 13. Individuals will be able to save a copy of their proof of vaccination to their phone to show when entering or using designated businesses and events.

- A second, secure option will be provided for people who can't access the website through a provincial call-in centre.
- We will continue to work with businesses over the coming weeks, so they have the support and information they need before this comes into effect.

Secondary messaging:

- Getting vaccinated keeps everyone in B.C. safe and stops the spread of COVID-19.
- B.C. is underway with the largest immunization effort in the province's history.
- So far, close to 75 per cent of all eligible people have been fully vaccinated.
- This is excellent progress, but there is still more work to do.
- Public health continues to closely monitor case counts, hospitalizations, and deaths. We are still seeing a surge in cases in groups of unvaccinated people.
- Roughly X per cent of recent cases are occurring in people who have not been fully vaccinated.
- We know the best way to put this pandemic behind us is through vaccines.
- They are safe, effective and allow us to return to doing the things we love.
- There are people who can't receive the vaccine for medical reasons or are not eligible (under the age of 12)– we need to keep boosting our vaccination rates to protect these people from transmission of COVID-19.

Questions and Answers

What are you announcing today?

- We are announcing that effective September 13th, people will be required to provide proof of vaccination in order to participate in certain social, recreational and indoor activities.
- The initial requirement is for at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine. Starting October ^{s.13} people will need to be fully vaccinated (^{s.13} to enter these settings.
- This is an important step to continue increasing our vaccination rate across the province and make our communities safer from COVID-19.

Where is proof of vaccination required in B.C.?

- Vaccination is required in B.C. in the following settings:
 - o Indoor ticketed sporting events
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 - o Restaurants (indoor dining and outdoor patios)
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 - o Organized indoor events (ex. weddings, parties, conferences, meetings, workshops)
 - o Discretionary organized indoor group recreational classes and activities (excluding k-12 schools, before and after school programs)

What will a proof-of-vaccination certificate look like? How would I use it?

- Individuals will be able to confidentially access their proof of vaccination through a secure website. A web link will be provided and publicized widely before September 13.
- A second, secure option will be provided for people who can't access the website.
- People will need to present their proof of vaccination, and ID in order to enter the specific settings outlined today.
- This proof of vaccination will be an interim solution as we work to transition to a federally compliant proof of vaccine later this fall.

What will I need to get my proof of vaccination?

- Details will be widely publicized well in advance of September 13.
- People will need to present their:
 - Name
 - Date of birth
 - Personal health number

Who did you consult with on the decision-making process?

- Throughout the entire pandemic, we have been working closely with stakeholders across a broad spectrum.
- We know that province-wide lockdowns are hard, not only on businesses, but on people and communities, too.
- That's why these new measures will make sure businesses can stay open and continue to serve their clientele with much lower risk of potential transmission.
- We have started and will continue with engagement with First Nations and Indigenous communities over the next several weeks as we move forward with these measures.

How will you get the message out to businesses affected?

- Ministers across government, including the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Recovery and Innovation are working hard to keep their stakeholders informed and updated with these changes.
- These new requirements will be effective starting September 13.
- We will continue to work closely with our partners, stakeholders and business community to keep people informed with the latest information.

How will you get the message out to British Columbians?

- Throughout the entire pandemic, British Columbians have stepped up and come together to keep each other safe.
- These new proof of vaccine requirements will help keep everyone safe and prevent the transmission of COVID-19.
- We will continue to provide British Columbians with the latest information through our government channels.

What are you hoping to get out of the mandatory proof of vaccinations?

- While COVID is still with us, vaccines have changed the way we live and deal with the virus.
- While vaccines have always been a choice, there may be some things people can't do unless they are vaccinated.
- Getting vaccinated protects yourself and your community and it's important that more people get vaccinated to make us all safer.
- Proof of vaccines is an important tool the province is using to boost vaccination rates and help put this pandemic behind us.

How would my privacy be protected?

- We've engaged B.C.'s Information and Privacy Commissioner office on our plan and the process for accessing COVID-19 vaccination information.
- Our website will be secure, and the details will be widely publicized ahead of September 13.
- No copy or record will be kept by the business or event, and it is at the discretion of the individual to show the information.

What steps has B.C. taken in exploring privacy considerations around a pan-Canadian vaccine passport/proof-of-vaccination certificate?

- We have engaged the B.C.'s Privacy Commissioner office on the proof-of-vaccination plan.
- This plan allows us to implement a vaccine requirement in certain recreational and social settings as of September 13.
- Individuals will be able to confidentially access their proof of vaccination through a secure website. A web link will be provided and publicized widely before September 13.
- This vaccine card will be an interim solution as we work to transition to a federally compliant proof of vaccine this fall.
- Government has also been engaging the Information and Privacy Commission on this work.
- The briefings emphasize work being done collaboratively by all provinces and the federal government for a single, pan-Canadian proof-of-vaccination certificate for international travel, with the federal government as the lead.
- The briefings have also included the privacy principles considered for any proposed technical solutions, such as sharing the minimum information necessary.
- We will continue to work with B.C.'s privacy commissioner office and seek advice as we move forward with this initiative and a pan-Canadian solution is developed.

When will this start?

- On September 13, people will be required to provide proof of vaccination in order to visit indoor social settings like restaurants, bars, high-intensity fitness, and theatres. The first stage will require partial vaccination (at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine) to enter these settings.
- By October^{s.13} people must be fully vaccinated (at least^{s.13} days after their second dose of COVID-19 vaccine) to enter these settings.
- s.13
- Full vaccination may be required earlier in areas of high-transmission as designated by the local medical health officer.

Will people be using their existing proof of vaccine cards?

- No, our new process will be more secure. Printed copies are more easily forged.
- Individuals will be able to confidentially access their proof of vaccination through a secure website. A web link will be provided and publicized widely before September 13.
- There will also be a secure option for those who can't access the web link.

My immunization record is wrong or I was vaccinated outside of BC. What should I do?

- You should update your immunization record if you got dose one or two in another province or country or if you believe your immunization status is wrong.
- You can update your immunization record here:
<https://www.immunizationrecord.gov.bc.ca/>
- It takes 2-3 weeks to update your immunization record.
- If you have proof of vaccination from another province, you can use it to demonstrate your immunization status.

I haven't been vaccinated yet. What should I do?

- If you haven't been vaccinated yet, there are still many quick and easy ways to do so.
- Communities throughout B.C. have drop-in clinics and are open 7 days a week.
- You don't need to register online or by phone before you arrive.
- You can find a walk-in clinic near you here:
<https://www2.qa.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/vaxforbc>
- You can also make an appointment to be vaccinated if that works better for you
- To register and get make an appointment to get vaccinated, visit
<https://www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca/s/> or call 1-833-838-2323

Will a second piece of government issued ID be required to insure a person is who they say they are?

- Yes, people will need to present their proof of vaccination and a piece of government issued identification to enter these settings while the PHO Order is in place.
- For people aged 12-17, proof of vaccination will suffice.

What proof of immunization will be required for non-British Columbians?

- Proof of vaccination from other jurisdictions will be required for travelers visiting the province who are entering the settings outlined today.
- We will be communicating this requirement to other provinces.
- Local businesses will be able to download an easy-to-use reference visual checklist of documents used in other jurisdictions from the BCCDC website. We are working on mechanisms to verify proof of vaccinations from other jurisdictions, and more information will be provided soon.
- This is similar to what many businesses currently use for proof of age.

For out of Canada visitors?

- For foreign travellers, they will need to use proof of vaccination and ID from their home jurisdictions.
- Most travellers now need to be fully vaccinated to enter the country.

How will you be able to ensure that outside of BC proof of vaccination is not fake?

- The proof of vaccination would need to match the format for the relevant jurisdiction, as set out in the document on the BCCDC website.
- Individuals from outside the province will show that proof of vaccination, alongside valid government identification.

What steps will be taken to ensure that those under 12 are not spreading COVID in these settings?

- The best strategy is for those who are eligible to get vaccinated
- While not all British Columbians can be vaccinated, these measures are to assist us in reducing overall transmission in these settings throughout the fall and winter.
- They are based on our strong recommendation that every eligible individual in BC get themselves vaccinated – this is the best way to protect yourself, your family and friends, and your community.

What support will be put in place to support businesses navigating these new rules?

- Throughout the entire pandemic, we have been working closely with stakeholders across a broad spectrum.
- We know that province-wide lockdowns are hard not only on businesses, but on people and communities, too.
- That's why these new measures will make sure businesses can stay open and continue to serve their clientele with much lower risk of potential transmission.
- We expect all businesses to comply with this order and will be engaging and working with them over the next several weeks.
- The Provincial Health Officer Order provides a solid basis for businesses to use this approach and removes any risk of them individually having to defend its use.
- All businesses will be provided with a download showing acceptable proof of vaccine from other Canadian jurisdictions.

Does this apply to patios or just in-door dining?

- This applies to indoor dining, including patios, but not drive-thrus and takeouts

Has any other province implemented a proof of vaccine process?

- Manitoba has the “Manitoba Digital Immunization Card” along with physical Manitoba Immunization Cards. These cards will include your first and last names and a QR code. When scanned with the Manitoba Immunization Card app, the QR code will show that you are fully vaccinated.
- Quebec has a PDF digital proof of vaccination. It shows an individual's personal information, the vaccines they have received, the result of their first positive COVID-19 screening test if they received a vaccine dose at least 21 days after the screening test, and a QR code containing the above information.

How will you enforce businesses' compliance with the order?

- We expect everyone to comply with these orders to protect public health.
- We've worked with businesses throughout the pandemic and we expect they will comply.
- If there are outliers that don't comply, we will address it.

What vaccines will be accepted?

- Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty, tozinameran, BNT162b2)
- Moderna (mRNA-1273)
- AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD (ChAdOx1-S, Vaxzevria, AZD1222)
- Janssen/Johnson & Johnson (Ad26.COV2.S)

What supports will businesses be provided?

- Throughout the entire pandemic, we have been working closely with stakeholders across a broad spectrum.
- We know that province-wide lockdowns are hard not only on businesses, but on people and communities, too.
- That's why these new measures will make sure businesses can stay open and continue to serve their clientele with much lower risk of potential transmission.
- We will be engaging with the business community over the next several weeks and providing communication ahead of the September 13 effective date.
- All businesses will be provided with a download showing acceptable proof of vaccine from other Canadian jurisdictions.
- We ask British Columbians to be kind.

Are you concerned about people forging the proof of vaccination?

- British Columbians have gotten through this pandemic by supporting one another, and we trust people will continue to do their part by following these new rules.
- Businesses will be supported to ensure compliance.
- It would take a certain kind of person to forge a public health document and put others at risk, just to go to a restaurant.
- And don't forget, forging a government document may result in criminal charges or other legal proceedings.

Why not require proof of vaccination for [x setting] (schools, congregate living incl. shelters or group homes etc.)?

- It remains vital that people continue to have access to essential services, regardless of their vaccination status.
- Getting more people vaccinated will make us all safer in every setting.
- The measures are aimed at reducing transmission by unvaccinated people at recreational and social events and activities.
- People have a choice – choose to get vaccinated to protect yourself, your loved ones and your community. Or don't get vaccinated and stay away from these social and recreational settings.
- There will be tailored plans for schools and post-secondaries, and we will have more to say on this shortly.
- Other businesses or institutions may choose to adopt their own vaccination policies beyond the designated settings but would be responsible for doing their own due diligence.

Are you still considering extending the proof of vaccine requirement to other settings (incl. health care)?

- We continue to look at all options to protect people in B.C., based on the evidence-based advice from public health.

Will the workers in these establishments need to be vaccinated?

- We aren't making vaccination mandatory for employment at this time, other than in specific areas of the health system starting with Long Term Care and Assisted Living Facilities.
- However, we continue to monitor the data and look at all options to keep people safe in B.C., based on the evidence-based advice from public health.
- We expect the measures announced today will encourage the vast majority of people working in these settings to be vaccinated, in order to continue to attend the specified social and recreational events and settings.
- Businesses or institutions may choose to adopt their own vaccination policies beyond the designated settings but would be responsible for doing their own due diligence.

Will there be vaccination mandates for workers in other high-risk settings?

- We aren't making vaccination mandatory for employment at this time, other than in specific areas of the health system starting with Long Term Care and Assisted Living Facilities.
- However, we continue to monitor the data and look at all options to keep people safe in B.C., based on the evidence-based advice from public health.

Why didn't you do this earlier?

- Vaccines have changed the way we live with COVID-19 and have helped us greatly in getting back to the things we love to do.
- But COVID-19 is still with us, and more transmissible variants like the Delta variant mean it can spread rapidly, even among vaccinated people.
- Most people in B.C. have stepped up, getting two doses of vaccine to protect themselves and their communities.
- But it is clear that further action is needed to help put this pandemic behind us – we need more protection, in the form of even higher vaccination rates.

What about drive-throughs?

- Proof of vaccination is not required for drive-thru restaurants, as long as the food is not taken inside the establishment to eat.

Why do people not have to be fully vaccinated until October^{s.1}₃ ?

- We want everyone to get vaccinated now and be able to continue supporting these places.
- Younger people have only been eligible to be vaccinated for a few months.
- And summer is a busy time for many. We know things like work and family schedules may make it difficult for some people to find the time to get the vaccine.
- A phased implementation gives people the time they need to get vaccinated, with both doses of vaccine.

Will I need a vaccine passport/proof-of-vaccination certificate to travel internationally?

- B.C. is working with the federal government and other provinces and territories on what a proof-of-vaccination certificate might look like for Canadians for international travel, with the federal government as the lead.
- It is anticipated to be ready this fall.
- s.13; s.16

Will I need a proof-of-vaccination certificate to access private sector supports, programs or services?

- The order will only apply to the list of settings identified in the PHO Order.

If a person is asked to provide proof of vaccination to, for example, access services, business premises or to attend an event in B.C., what should they do?

- If you aren't vaccinated, register for your vaccine now! Or walk-into a vaccine clinic.
- Prior to attending an event or business that requires proof of vaccination, individuals will need to access their proof of vaccination record.
- People will be able to securely and confidentially access their proof of vaccination online.
- At admission to one of the designated businesses or activities, individuals will show their proof of vaccination (phone or paper copy) and show 1 other piece of ID such as Driver's licence or BC Services Card to confirm identify.
- No copy or record will be kept by the business or event, and it is at the discretion of the individual to show the information.

Will you introduce legislation/regulation to guide businesses in the private sector that might want to require proof of vaccination?

- No.
- Employers are accountable for ensuring their workers' safety and should have in place COVID-19 safety plans – including a requirement to stay home when sick, and regular hand washing.
- Employers may decide to implement additional safety measures, including the decision to require vaccination for their employees, or specific requirements for staff working in their businesses who are not vaccinated, such as more frequent rapid testing and/or mask wearing.
- Given the higher transmissibility of the delta variant, all businesses should review the adequacy of their plans.

Will the proof of vaccination requirement apply to employees at venues (concert halls, restaurants etc.) covered by the vaccination mandate?

- We aren't making vaccination mandatory for employment, other than in specific areas of the health system starting with Long Term Care and Assisted Living Facilities.
- Employers are accountable for ensuring their workers' safety and should have in place COVID-19 safety plans – including a requirement to stay home when sick, and regular hand washing.
- Given the higher transmissibility of the delta variant, all businesses should review the adequacy of their plans.
- We continue to monitor the data and look at all options to keep people safe in B.C., based on the evidence-based advice from public health.
- The initiatives announced today are to assist in reducing overall transmission over the fall and winter.
- We strongly recommend that every eligible individual in BC get themselves vaccinated this is the best way to protect yourself, your family and friends, and your community.

Will businesses/organizations be able to set their own requirement for proof of vaccine in venues beyond those covered by the PHO order?

- We are introducing a provincial proof of vaccine requirement for designated settings removes the need for these businesses to set their own vaccine requirement.
- The PHO Order provides a solid basis for businesses to use this approach and prevents them from having to defend any action they might have taken individually in this regard.
- The use of additional measures in other settings will be an individual business decision.

- We recommend that any further actions are based on the evidence-based guidance provided by BCCDC.
- Again, the initiatives announced today are to assist in reducing overall transmission over the fall and winter considering the experience of the Delta variance on transmission.

Will post secondary institutions be permitted to adopt their own proof of vaccine requirement that applies beyond student residences and varsity sports?

- We believe strongly in the importance of returning to campus-based teaching for post-secondary institutions this fall.
- We urge every eligible person in B.C. to get vaccinated - this is the best way to protect yourself, your family and friends, and your community.
- There will be a requirement to be vaccinated to live in a post-secondary residence; as well as the requirement announced today for proof of vaccination to access a range of social and recreational settings and services. This requirement will apply to those same settings on post-secondary campuses
- Again, the initiatives announced today are to assist in reducing overall transmission over the fall and winter considering the experience of the Delta variance on transmission.
- Post-secondary institutions, like other businesses or organizations, may choose to adopt their own vaccination policies beyond the PHO order, but would be required to do their own due diligence.

Are libraries included?

- No.

What about outdoor events like the PNE and fairs that have indoor components like barns and indoor attractions that visitors attend?

- Proof of vaccination would be required to access designated spaces.
- For example, an indoor restaurant or beer garden.

Issues Scan

Monday, August 23, 2021

Victoria

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Wildfires

Background:

- Since April 1, 2021, the BC Wildfire Service has responded to 1,538 wildfires, resulting in over 862,000 hectares of area burned.
- There are currently 248 active fires and 27 considered wildfires of note (15 of which are in the Kamloops Fire Centre).
- As a result of cooler weather across the province, fire severity has been dropping. Rain over the weekend is expected to bring some additional reprieve.
- There are currently 14,285 properties on evacuation alert and just under 4,000 on evacuation order.
- As of August 18th, 826 long-term care residents had been relocated, with 49 moves still pending. Most are being temporarily housed at other long-term care facilities in the Lower Mainland or elsewhere in the Interior.
- Interior Health has also rescheduled approx. 600 elective surgical procedures from Aug. 6th to 27th at Kelowna General Hospital, Royal Inland Hospital (Kamloops), and Vernon Jubilee Hospital.
- The Mount Hayes fire near Ladysmith is currently 70 hectares in size. The fire is on privately managed forest land (owned by Mosaic) and is currently being triaged by BC Wildfire from the air with both helicopters and a water bomber. A Fortis LNG plant is 1.5km away.

Message:

- Being asked to leave your home, or living day to day, seeing the smoke or flames, and knowing that an order could come at any moment - is incredibly difficult.
- The 2021 wildfire season continues to be one of the most difficult to date.
- I want to express my sincere thanks to the thousands of men and women working tirelessly and putting themselves in harm's way to protect our communities.
- We have been throwing everything we've got at these fires - and pulling in resources from across the country and around the globe.
- We will continue to work with local governments, First Nations, federal agencies, and industry to marshal all available resources to fight these fires and support the people who are being impacted.

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White Rock Lake Fire and Monte Lake

Background:

- On July 13th, the White Rock Lake fire was reported around 4pm. BC Wildfire Crews arrived within 30 minutes to begin work.
- The fire was burning aggressively in heavy timber and already 10 hectares in size, this fire grew to 300 hectares by the next day.
- There was heightened activity throughout the province (over 300 fires), and multiple interface fires threatening homes and infrastructure in the region.
- A number of Monte Lake residents disobeyed evacuation orders to stay behind and fight the fires themselves. A number of homes were destroyed in the fire.
- On August 9th, a mini-documentary alleging BCWS was slow to respond and highlighting people who stayed to fight the fire on their own was released. It has been viewed nearly 175,000 times.
- The fire has grown to reach the western shore of Okanagan lake and destroyed a number of other houses. It is currently about 80,745 hectares.
- Portions of Kamloops, Armstrong and Vernon have been on evacuation alert at various points over the past weeks.

Message:

s.13

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Leaked Wildfire Memo

Background:

- Global received a leaked memo from a July 12th meeting between BC Wildfire and forestry executives. The note was written by an industry participant who misconstrued some of the conversation - particularly regarding resourcing.
- Media have reported that the memo shows BCWS lacked resources - and in particular air resources.
- The memo reference to air resources is related to backcountry resources, not those used to fight interface fires.
- s.13
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- SafeGuard, a private mass water delivery company, has alleged BC Wildfire has left valuable resources on the sideline in efforts to fight the Okanagan fires.

Message:

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COVID-19

Background:

- On Aug. 20, B.C. announced 663 cases. 274 in the Interior, 162 in Fraser, 135 in VCH, 54 in VIHA, and 38 in the North.
- There were 1 new death. 6,345 active cases. 129 people are in hospital.
- Dr. Henry announced new public health orders for all of Interior Health: mandatory masks in indoor public spaces; indoor personal gatherings max. 1 household or 5 guests, and outdoor personal gatherings max. 50 people; organized gatherings max. 50 people indoors or 100 people outdoors; high intensity exercise classes suspended; new size limits for indoor & outdoor group exercise.
- Media have commented that the growth in cases no longer appears limited to the Interior Health region. Dr. Henry says the situation is qualitatively different in the Interior, where immunization rates are lower.
- Media has been asking for daily data on “breakthrough cases.” Starting Monday that will be available in the daily written statements.

Message:

- I want to express my thanks to the healthcare workers and public health professionals who have been working so hard - especially in Interior Health facing the double challenges of COVID-19 and wildfires.
- We have made tremendous progress with our immunization program.
- But we are seeing this increase of cases in people who are not vaccinated and need to get even more people vaccinated.
- Immunization is a personal choice. But it’s going to be a choice that has consequences.
- I urge anyone who hasn’t gotten a shot to book your appointment today so you’re ready when this requirement comes in and can keep doing the things you love.
- Getting more people vaccinated is one of the most important things we can do to bring these numbers down.

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Post-Secondary Return to Campus

Background:

- Media have been asking for updates on whether there will be mandatory vaccination, and mandatory masks at post-secondary institutions - as requested by students, faculty, and staff.
- For the past week, government has been saying that public health is reviewing their Return to Campus Guidelines and will have more to say soon.
- The proof of vaccination requirement will apply to the same kinds of spaces on campuses (i.e., on-campus restaurants, gyms etc.).
- s.13
-

Message:

- We've been listening to students, faculty and staff, and public health has been working closely with colleges and universities to update the guidelines for the return to campus.
- This new provincial proof of vaccination requirement will apply to places like on-campus restaurants^{s.13} and gyms to get more people vaccinated.
- Additional measures are coming. Public health will have more to say tomorrow.
- I'm confident Dr. Henry and public health will have the right measures in place to keep students, faculty, and staff safe on campus - and give them the confidence they need for a successful return to campus.

s.13

K-12 Back to School

Background:

- The K-12 steering committee continues to meet to discuss the safety guidelines, in consultation with BCCDC, to ensure we are prepared for September's return to school.
- On June 17, 2021, we announced \$43.6 million to support a safe return to school for students and staff for investments including enhanced cleaning measures, and to support First Nations and Métis students, mental health services, learning impacts to students as well as rapid response teams.
- With this funding in place, school districts have the resources to continue providing the quality education that students deserve in a way that supports their social and emotional well-being, and to continue to do so in classrooms full-time.

Message:

- Ensuring kids can learn safely is a top priority. I'm very proud of the work we did - working with public health and with teachers, school staff, parents, and administrators to keep kids learning over the past year.
- We understand that parents and school staff want clear, accurate and up-to-date information going into the upcoming school year so they can feel safe.
- That's why we worked hard to provide British Columbians with initial health and safety guidance for schools in June, as well as a recovery plan for school boards and independent schools.
- As we have since the beginning of the pandemic, we will base our safety plans on the most current information on the virus and the rollout of the provincial vaccination campaign.
- We are continuing to work closely with public health experts and our provincial K-12 steering committee to finalize plans to ensure the safety of students and staff, and we will have further details in the coming days.

Fairy Creek/ Old Growth

Background:

- On August 21st, police used pepper spray on protesters after a significant confrontation at HQ Camp.
- Approximately 30 people were arrested bringing total arrests to 740 individuals.
- Videos are circulating of people being arrested and tackled by police. One police officer and one protester were injured and assessed by medical crews.
- The Federal NDP sent a letter to Minister Bill Blair calling for a full review of police actions.
- On Saturday, Jonathan Wilkinson made a campaign promise of \$50 million for a "BC Old Growth Nature Fund" to help permanently protect old growth forests.

Message:

- We are charting a different path forward on old growth. After years of divisiveness and a previous government that refused to take action.
- Our approach prioritizes reconciliation and environmental protection.
- In June we announced a new, independent technical panel who are working to ensure we're using the best science and data available to identify at-risk old growth ecosystems and prioritize areas for deferral.
- s.13
- Decisions on specific protections will continue to be based on government-to-government discussions with First Nations rights and title holders.

● s.13

On RCMP actions:

- Government doesn't direct the RCMP in policing operations.
- There are civilian oversight and review bodies to consider any complaints brought forward by the public.

George Massey Tunnel Replacement

Background:

- On Wednesday, August 18 Minister Fleming announced that the George Massey Tunnel would be replaced by a new 8-lane immersed tube tunnel.
- The project is budgeted at \$4.15 billion.
- Construction on the tunnel will begin in 2025 and be completed in 2030.
- Critics say three driving lanes each way won't alleviate existing congestion.
- Truckers have been in the media saying the tunnel doesn't address concerns for transportation of goods in the region.

Message:

- The new toll-free tunnel is the right project for the region and has been endorsed by the Metro Vancouver Board.
- The new tunnel will have eight lanes, including dedicated lanes for transit in both directions.
- The tunnel will also include lanes for safe active transportation such as walking or cycling.
- We are also taking action right now to reduce traffic congestion along the Highway 99 corridor, including replacement of the Steveston Interchange.
- We are committed to continue working closely with Indigenous groups, municipalities, TransLink, and key stakeholders to get people moving quickly in the region.

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Lytton

Background:

- The Lytton Creek fire continues to burn outside of city limits and northwest of Merritt and the Lower Nicola Indian Band.
- Former Lytton resident Carel Moiseiwitsch has filed a potential class-action lawsuit against both the Canadian Pacific (CP) and Canadian National (CN) rail companies, claiming their negligence caused the fire that burned down her community.
- The lawsuit, says the defendants knew, or ought to have known, that the weather conditions in the area at the time made it unsafe for trains to operate.
- The Transportation Safety Board is still investigating the cause of the fire, as both CN and CP trains had been operating in the area when it started.
- On August 4th, the Insurance Bureau of Canada said 300 claims had been made in relation to the Lytton fire, totaling around \$78 million.
- On August 1st, nearly 60 residents and 12 businesses wrote to Minister Osborne asking for the province to support the village's elected officials on rebuilding.

Message:

- The past month has been a difficult time for Lytton and the surrounding Indigenous communities, and our thoughts are with them.
- My colleagues and I have been in regular contact with the mayor to offer support.
- s.13
- Emergency Support Services is providing support to evacuees, including accommodation, food, and clothing.
- Additionally, we announced a \$2000 one-time payment to support households from the Lytton area.
- We'll keep listening to the community to determine how we can best support them moving forward through recovery and rebuilding.

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SPEAKING NOTES

Vaccination certification

August 23, 2021

Headline

Premier John Horgan announces new measures to protect people

Quote

"Getting vaccinated protects you and your family," Premier John Horgan said. "It protects your neighbours. The more people who are vaccinated the safer it is for all of us. It brings us closer to putting the pandemic behind us and returning to the life we once knew."

Audience

- Press theatre with Minister Dix, PHO Dr. Bonnie Henry, and reporters

Format

- 3-minute speech at podium followed by media scrum

Speaking notes begin on the next page

Good afternoon.

[Land acknowledgement].

I'm joined today by PHO Dr. Bonnie Henry and Minister Dix.

This has been a summer unlike any other.

Before we get to today's announcement, I want to offer thanks to some brave people on behalf of all British Columbians.

Thank you to all the crews and volunteers battling wildfires throughout the province.

You are engaged in a difficult and dangerous fight.

Thank you to everyone on the firelines and all those on the frontlines assisting in evacuations.

Thanks to the BC Wildfire Service, Emergency Management BC, local and First Nations governments for all you are doing.

We know your efforts have saved lives and property.

We also know your work is not yet done.

We want *you* to know we have *your* backs.

That is how we do things here in B.C.

We work together – in ways small and large
– to make things better for everyone.

That is also how we have faced the pandemic.

The largest immunization program in the province's history has led to the full vaccination of almost three of every four eligible British Columbians.

Getting vaccinated keeps everyone safe and slows the spread of Covid-19.

The recent surge in cases in people who are unvaccinated shows that more needs to be done.

It is time for next steps.

Starting on **September 13**, proof of vaccination will be required to access many private and public events, services, and businesses.

If you wish to keep attending these places and events, you will need to be vaccinated.

Of course, getting vaccinated is a choice.

It is a personal choice -- with consequences.

As it should be.

We are making this announcement today so those who have yet to get their vaccination can do so.

Book your appointment today.

Take advantage of walk-in clinics.

We are continuing to work with businesses to ensure a smooth transition to these new health measures.

Getting vaccinated protects you and your family.

It protects your neighbours.

The more people who are vaccinated the safer it is for all of us.

It also brings us closer to putting the pandemic behind us and returning to the life we once knew.

Thank you.

Now Dr. Henry will provide more details.