

TO: AgeCare Staff in British Columbia
FROM: Scott Shearer, Director of BC Operations
Melanie Brophy, Vice President, Care Services
CC: Executive, Directors, and Walden Plaza Teams
DATE: October 29, 2021
SUBJECT: COVID-19 Booster Vaccination For Staff

Starting in November 2021, COVID-19 booster vaccinations will be offered to health care workers who received their first two doses on a shortened schedule - less than 42 days between dose 1 and dose 2.

Staff must be registered with the [Get Vaccinated](#) provincial registration system, and your immunization record must be up-to-date to receive an invitation to book a booster appointment.

- To register, visit gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated or call 1-833-838-2323.

What is a booster dose?

A booster dose is an additional COVID-19 vaccine you may get months after your initial vaccine series to boost protection against infection that may have waned over time. A booster gets immunity back up to a desirable level of protection for an extended period of time.

Why are booster doses recommended?

The COVID-19 vaccines are very effective and provide good, ongoing protection, especially against severe disease – which is the primary goal of the vaccination program. Here in BC, the longer interval between vaccine doses has been very helpful in supporting long-lasting [vaccine effectiveness](#).

However, breakthrough infections among fully vaccinated individuals will happen because vaccines are not 100% effective against symptomatic infection. The vast majority of these are expected to be mild. Hospitalizations for COVID-19 among fully vaccinated individuals are rare.

There is some evidence that the level of protection against symptomatic infection decreases over time after the initial vaccination series, especially for people who got their two COVID-19 vaccines less than five weeks apart, those with immunocompromising conditions, and among older individuals.

Additionally, people in long-term care and assisted living facilities and areas of high transmission are at higher risk of COVID-19 infection and will also benefit from a booster dose.

Booster doses will start with those who are at the highest risk. From November 2021 to January 2022, people most at risk of getting COVID-19 will be invited to book a booster dose appointment. Once these groups are vaccinated, everyone else will be invited to book an appointment for a booster dose later.

This booster dose will help protect you, your family, your community, and your residents.

Thank you for being an AgeCare Vaccine Champion. For more information, visit the [BC Centre for Disease Control website](#).