COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign

Campaign launch & progress to date: The campaign is well underway and over 2.1 million BC adults 18+ have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine. We seek your assistance to maximize vaccination coverage.

- Please ask all your patients about their vaccination status and recommend vaccination if they have not already been immunized.
- Please remind your patients that they must register for vaccination at www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca/s/ or by calling 1-833-838-2323. Those who received their first dose without being registered in the provincial booking system must also get registered so they can be invited for their second dose.
- VCH is supporting home bound seniors to be immunized. If you are aware of seniors who require this service, ask your patient, their family or your office to call 1-833-838-2323.

Your support in promoting this campaign is invaluable and appreciated.

Clinically extremely vulnerable: Many individuals are presenting to our clinics with specific recommendations for vaccine type or interval. Please note, both mRNA vaccines are similar in their mechanism of action, safety profile and efficacy and special accommodations for a vaccine type cannot be made. In addition, the interval between two doses is the same for all those vaccinated, including the clinically vulnerable population.

COVID-19 Vaccine for pregnant women: Vaccine is now recommended and prioritized for women in all stages of pregnancy. Please advise your pregnant clients to register and book an appointment on line or by phone.

AstraZeneca vaccine: The inventory remaining in the province is limited and thus being held back for second doses. Studies are also underway to evaluate interchangeability of COVID-19 vaccines; the results will help determine approach and options for second doses.

The risk of serious blood clots remains low. Vaccine recipients are advised to monitor for signs of blood clots/bleeding for 4 to 28 days following vaccination. This side effect is treatable when individuals seek medical care quickly. Signs and symptoms can include: new headache or new neurological symptoms, shortness of breath, chest pain, abdominal or back pain, swelling, pain or bruising. These individuals need an urgent or emergent assessment, including a CBC. Should you detect thrombocytopenia, please involve a hematologist in the care team or refer the patient to an Emergency Department.

Influenza Campaign for the 2020-2021 season is now over. Please remove all influenza vaccine products from your fridge and return to your local community health centre along with a completed Vaccine Return Form as soon as possible.

Notes about childhood immunizations:

Rotavirus vaccine: BC is moving back to a two-dose Rotarix (GSK) vaccine schedule with doses offered at 2 and 4 months of age. Infants who have commenced rotavirus vaccine protection using Rotateq (Merck) will still need a total of three doses of rotavirus vaccine; Rotarix can be used to complete their previous three-dose series. Please use up the Rotateq vaccine in your office fridge before ordering any doses of Rotarix.

Immunizing infants? As you resume your usual in-office practice, please invite new moms and babes for well-child check including vaccinations. Vaccines are available for ordering from your local public health unit.