



School support workers to have earlier access to vaccines

We are pleased with yesterday's [announcement](#) by Premier John Horgan that education support workers will be included in Phase 2 and Phase 3 of B.C.'s vaccination plan.

We have advocated for this on many levels. Many of our members are in workplaces with high rates of exposure or do not have access to barriers while working indoors and in close proximity to large numbers of children and co-workers.

Priority Groups, Rationale, and Estimated First Doses

Priority Sector / Site	Recorded transmission and outbreaks	Maintain workforce for a critical service	Unable to work remotely	Unable to maintain consistent prevention measures	Rationale	Estimated Required First Doses
FIRST RESPONDERS Police, fire, emergency transport	x	x	x		Immunization will help maintain this response essential infrastructure	Police & RCMP: 10,400 Fire: 11,000 Emerg Transport: 3,784
K-12 EDUCATION STAFF All staff in elementary and secondary schools	x	x	x		Immunization will support public and workforce confidence and support provision of in-person education	101,849
CHILD CARE STAFF Licensed and family child care	x	x	x	x	Same K-12 rationale; support working parents; child-care workers and the young children they care for are less able to take appropriate measures to reduce COVID-19 transmission.	28,502

- Approximately 340,000 doses of AstraZeneca/Covi-Shield, a fridge-stable vaccine, are expected to start arriving at the end of this month.
- Starting in April, priority groups will focus on frontline workers including all staff in elementary and secondary schools.
- Members in these priority groups are asked to not call their local health authority to book a vaccine appointment. Appointments will be organized by employers.
- Vaccines will be administered by community pharmacists, at existing immunization clinics, and at mobile clinics in some worksites.
- We expect that everyone in this sector will be able to be vaccinated by the end of May.

Details of the updated Immunization Plan can be found [here](#).

Vaccination FAQ

If the adults in school (staff and administrators) are vaccinated, are they still at risk if they're in a classroom of children who aren't vaccinated?

All vaccines approved for use in Canada are effective in preventing COVID-19.

By fall 2021, we expect a large majority of adults in B.C., including school staff, to be vaccinated. As more people get vaccinated, we expect to see fewer cases of COVID-19 in communities, which means there should be fewer cases in schools.

People who are vaccinated can still get COVID-19, but are far less likely to experience severe illness. Even with most adults being vaccinated, there will likely still be some health and safety measures in place in schools and other settings until there is significantly less community transmission.

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