

memo



To: Agency-Wide/NACL Board of Directors
From: Randy Humchitt, Deputy Executive Director
Date: August 11, 2021
Re: CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) UPDATE

Current Situation

Hi everyone! It's hard to believe that we are over halfway through the summer! It has been just over one month since the last update, with the initial plan being to hold off on further updates over the summer, barring any significant changes. As we look towards September and the hope of entry into Phase 4 of the BC Restart Plan, there are some updates to share that will have an impact on NACL.

Cases of COVID-19 are on the rise again, with a large concentration in the Interior Health Region. The Provincial Health Office (PHO) has implemented restrictions in the Interior in an effort to deter the spread of the virus. On August 9, 2021, the BC CDC reported that 95% of recent COVID cases have been the Delta variant, with 95% of those infected being people who are either unvaccinated or partially vaccinated.

As of yesterday (August 10, 2021), there were 395 new cases of COVID-19 reported in BC, 31 of which were on Vancouver Island. Island Health's dashboard notes 175 active cases, with 92 in the South Island region, 70 in the Central Island region, and 13 in the North Island region.

Vaccination Rates and Impact on Exposure and Control Plan/Mandates

On the topic of vaccinations, we appreciate the efforts of staff to get vaccinated and to provide proof of such to the NACL office. Our vulnerable persons served are depending on our ability to support them in as safe a manner as possible through this pandemic. At present, a good portion of staff have not yet provided proof of vaccination. Please continue to submit those vaccination records, as we consider potential revisions to our Exposure and Control Plan and current NACL mask mandates in relation to recorded vaccination rates.

The quickest and easiest way to provide proof of vaccination is to send a picture, either by text or e-mail to Admin Assistant **Michelle Gan**, at **778-268-2677** or michelle.gan@nanaimoacl.com (or .org), respectively.

Alternatively, you can bring proof of vaccination **to the office** to be copied for your file during NACL's office hours (Monday to Friday, 0830-1600). Please note that Program Supervisors will be checking in with those who haven't yet provided proof of vaccination; and, if you would like to have it sent to the office through them, that is another option.

Our hope was to look at lifting the mask mandate as part of the Phase 4 BC Restart Plan proposed for September 7, 2021. However, considering the uptick of COVID-19 cases in the province and the proof of vaccinations provided internally to date, we are not in a position to change our plan as it relates to face masks. We will revisit this on a month-to-month basis for the foreseeable future. For now, staff will continue to be required to wear a face mask at all times while on shift until September 30, 2021.

In Conclusion...

Your efforts to take care of each other and to protect our persons served during this most trying of times does not go unnoticed. The proof of this is in the overall health and well-being of everyone at NACL – not only during this pandemic, but always. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

As always, feel free to contact me directly if you have questions or considerations.

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