

E.D. COMMUNICATION

January 15, 2021

B.C. Provincial Health Officer (PHO) Dr. Bonnie Henry has extended the province-wide restrictions on all events and social gatherings to significantly reduce COVID-19 transmission related to social interactions and travel. The order is **in effect until Friday, February 5, 2021 at midnight.**

As a reminder, the best place to get up-to-date information about COVID restrictions and orders from the Provincial Health Officer [is on the BC Government website here](#)

Information on the COVID-19 Vaccine

B.C. hopes to have vaccine available for all those who choose to be vaccinated by the end of this year. However, it will take time before there's enough vaccine for everyone in the province, so vaccine distribution will be phased and will start with key populations based on Canada's pandemic plan.

You can learn more about the distribution plan for vaccines on the BCCDC website here. **Adults in group homes are a priority group for the vaccine in February and March.**

While the vaccine distribution process takes place, it is important to remember to continue to maintain COVID-19 prevention measures to keep yourself and others safe. We will share new information about the vaccine roll out in future editions of this update as it becomes available.

Vaccines and Consent for People with Developmental Disabilities

Informed consent is an essential pre-condition to receiving a vaccine. [Visit the BC Centre for Disease Control website here](#) to learn about the steps involved in obtaining consent for vaccination, including instructional videos about situations where individuals need to demonstrate capacity to give consent, as well as what happens for individuals who are not able to give consent.

Stories of hope and encouragement from Families - CLBC

In the two stories below, family members share their perspectives on life and lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Eric Goll, from [Empowering Ability](#), shares what has helped his family and other families with a loved one with a developmental disability during the pandemic [in the video "Pandemic Family Learnings"](#)
- Liane Kupferberg Carter shared her story "[How Having a Child With Autism Helps Me Ride Out the Pandemic](#)" in the New York Times.