



April 19, 2021

Premier Horgan, Minister Dix and Dr. Henry,

I am writing in follow-up to my previous letter dated March 16th urging you to immediately rectify the omission of those 16-17 years of age from British Columbia's vaccine distribution plan. As British Columbians over 18 years of age are eagerly awaiting the opportunity to register for the COVID-19 vaccine this week, the health and well-being of those aged 16-17 is once again being overlooked.

Despite Health Canada approving the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for safe use in those 16 years of age and older, BC's vaccine roll-out plan repeatedly excludes those 16-17 years of age. While I recognize that vaccine registration and distribution is more complicated in this age group given their ineligibility for the Moderna or AstraZeneca vaccines, this complication should not result in their exclusion from vaccination.

This pandemic will not be brought under control until all who are able are vaccinated. Limiting vaccine registration to only those 18+ creates unnecessary risk to the health and well-being of those aged 16-17 and unjustly erodes their right to timely, appropriate and accessible healthcare.

In addition to the need to expand vaccine registration eligibility to those aged 16-17, I also strongly reiterate the need to amend Phase 4 of British Columbia's general rollout plan to reflect the reality of Health Canada approvals and NACI guidance by adding those aged 16-17 to the 18-24-year-old cohort.

The exclusion of those 16-17 years of age from the current distribution plan puts British Columbia's teenagers at unnecessary risk, many of whom have been working in essential, front-line positions while also juggling disrupted schooling and missing important milestones and essential peer connections. Their exclusion from BC's vaccine rollout plan must be rectified immediately.

Sincerely,

Kelly Cox, MD
CPS Board Representative for BC
Nanaimo, BC