

February 5, 2021

Dr. Bonnie Henry

Provincial Health Officer
Office of the Provincial Health Officer
PO BOX 9648 Stn Prov Govt
1515 Blanshard Street
Victoria, BC V8W 9P4
E: provhloffice@gov.bc.ca

Honorable Adrian Dix

Ministry of Health
PO BOX 9050 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
E: HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Dr. Bonnie Henry and Minister Dix,

At the January 25, 2021 Board meeting, the Vancouver Board of Education passed the following motion:

That the Vancouver Board of Education write to the Honorable Adrian Dix, Minister of Health and Dr. Bonnie Henry, Provincial Health Officer to prioritize school based teachers, administrators and support staff to be included immediately after phase 2 Vaccination Roll Out Plan for BC to be offered vaccinations against COVID-19.

Phase 1 – December 2020 to February 2021

- *Residents, staff and essential visitors to long-term care and assisted living*
- *Individuals assessed for and awaiting long term care*
- *Hospital health care workers who may provide care for COVID-19 patients*
- *Remote and isolated Indigenous communities*

Phase 2 – February to March

- *Seniors 80+*
- *Remote indigenous communities not done in phase 1*
- *Indigenous seniors aged 65+, Elders, and additional communities not yet immunized*
- *Hospital staff, community GPs and medical specialists not yet immunized*
- *Vulnerable populations in select congregated settings*
- *Staff in community home support and nursing for seniors*

Phase 3 – April to June

- *People aged 79 to 60 in five-year increments*
- *People aged 69 to 16 who are clinically extremely vulnerable*

Phase 4 – July to September

- *People aged 59 to 18 in five-year increments*

School staff have been on the front line in supporting the needs of our communities and providing essential care for the children of BC. Education is vital to the physical, mental and social development of children and keeping schools open must remain a top priority.

Board of Education Trustees:

Carmen Cho – Board Chair,
Estrellita Gonzalez – Vice-Chair,
Fraser Ballantyne, Lois Chan-Pedley,
Janet Fraser, Oliver Hanson, Barb Parrott,
Jennifer Reddy, Allan Wong

When the vaccination schedule was initially announced in December 2020, it was encouraging to see that staff in the K-12 sector identified as “key frontline workers” and prioritized to receive vaccination in Spring of 2021. However, the updated vaccination schedule released in January 2021 removed K-12 staff from the priority list.

On behalf of the Vancouver School Board I ask that you to reconsider this decision and include staff in the K-12 sector in phase 2 of the Vaccination Roll Out Plan.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

With regards,



Carmen Cho
Board Chair

cc: VBE Trustees
Suzanne Hoffman, Superintendent
J. David Green, Secretary-Treasurer