



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

October 29, 2021

Dear Chiefs and Health Directors,

On October 26th British Columbia's Provincial Health Officer announced the availability of COVID-19 booster doses for all British Columbians. In addition, Indigenous people 12 years of age and older have been prioritized in the booster dose vaccine roll-out.

As part of a phased booster implementation approach, First Nations communities who have the shortest interval between dose 1 and dose 2 will be scheduled first for booster dose clinics. This will include most rural and remote communities with the balance of community clinics scheduled approximately six months following the administration of dose two. Communities with active outbreaks will also be prioritized.

In anticipation of the announcement the FNHA has been working behind the scenes to:

1. Ensure sufficient immunization supplies are available,
2. Ensure appropriate volumes of vaccine are on hand,
3. Build a response team to provide additional immunizers, and
4. Immunization clinic support staff where needed.

Our regional teams are standing by to support your booster dose clinic planning. We acknowledge that this is a particularly busy time for community health teams with both active influenza vaccination campaigns underway and an anticipated roll-out of childhood COVID-19 vaccines in the foreseeable future.

The COVID-19 pandemic has tested us all and booster doses provide not only hope of moving closer to a more stable ongoing state and an additional layer of protection for ourselves, our families and communities. We appreciate the leadership you have shown throughout this pandemic and look forward to a time when we can gather together once more.

In Health and Wellness,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard Jock'.

Richard Jock
Chief Executive Officer
First Nations Health Authority

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Shannon McDonald'.

Dr. Shannon McDonald
Chief Medical Officer
First Nations Health Authority