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Date: 3/12/2021 4:38:31 PM
Subject: Immunization Program Update

Dear Mayor and Council,

With B.C. now being in Phase 2 of its COVID-19 Immunization program, I am writing to provide you with an update on how the City and Park Board have been working to support VCH and the province with this important task.

Background

B.C.'s COVID-19 Immunization Plan happens in four phases with Phase 1 and 2 focusing on the high-risk population and Phase 3 and 4 on the general population.

The timeline for B.C.'s COVID-19 Immunization Plan is dependent on vaccine supply and availability which means that the timeline for each phase may change, and details remain fluid. The federal government is working to obtain as much vaccine as possible to distribute to provinces and territories.

Details of the provincial program is available here: <https://immunizebc.ca/>

Phase 2 – Roll-out in the City of Vancouver

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) is responsible for implementing BC's COVID-19 Immunization Plan in Vancouver and are setting up vaccination clinics throughout the community.

The City, through the Park Board, was asked by VCH to provide space at four of our community centres to be used as vaccination clinics for different length of time. City and Park Board staff have worked closely with VCH staff to support their needs and requirements in getting the sites organized and set up. This work is ongoing.

The space is provided free of charge and we will only be compensated for incremental costs, if any, incurred due to the VCH activations. We have also worked closely with the affected Community Centre Associations, which are all very supportive, and ensured that they will not be financially impacted. Although the vaccination clinics take place in our facilities, the operations are the responsibility of VCH.

The four sites are:

- a. Creekside Community Centre ` opens March 15
- b. Sunset Community Centre ` opens March 22

- c. West End Community Centre opens April 5
- d. Kerrisdale Community Centre Seniors Centre opens March 22

The first three sites are shorter activations for Phase 2 only, whereas the clinic at Kerrisdale is intended to run until the end of August as a mass vaccination clinic for Phase 3 and 4 of B.C.'s COVID-19 Immunization Plan.

The first vaccinations will start Monday March 15th. In Vancouver, seniors 85 years of age and older, Indigenous peoples 65 years of age and older and Elders can call the toll-free phone line, 1-877-587-5767, to book an appointment. On March 22, this opens up to all seniors 80 years and older. There are some regional variations in eligibility timing, so you may see slight variations referenced for elsewhere in the region and B.C.

Details for VCH's vaccine roll-out, including all vaccination clinics within Vancouver, not just at City owned facilities, are available here: <http://www.vch.ca/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine>

VCH Opening Celebration to COVID vaccinations

VCH is planning an Opening Celebration at Creekside Community Centre on Monday morning between 9-10am. We understand that it will include opening remarks by VCH Senior Leaders and elders from MST with details currently being worked out. The City and Park Board have not been asked to participate in the event. It is unknown at this time if media will be invited.

PNE support

For the larger and long term vaccination clinics, the province has been looking for community partners to provide non-clinical staffing to help run the operations. The need is for greeters, flow monitors, check-in etc. - front-of-house type of staff that you see at events. Through a connection facilitated by City staff, the PNE is now working with the province to provide non-clinical staffing to two vaccination clinics: Kerrisdale and Vancouver Community College. The PNE is very excited to be part of this very important program as it also provides their event staff with an opportunity to come back to work.

Should you have additional questions or concerns, please contact me or Magnus Enfeldt, Executive Lead COVID Response & Director BPPS at magnus.enfeldt@vancouver.ca

Best,
Paul

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the xʷməŋəm (Musqueam), ləwú7mesh (Squamish), and səilwətał (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.