

Date:	August 24, 2021
To:	Physicians, nurse practitioners, and other outside health care or personal care providers entering long-term care homes, assisted living facilities, and Iris House and Seven Sisters
From:	Northern Health Emergency Operations Committee
Re:	COVID-19 Vaccination Status Information & Preventive Measures Order

On Friday, August 20, 2021, Provincial Health Officer (PHO), Dr. Bonnie Henry, issued the [COVID-19 Vaccination Status Information & Preventive Measures Order](#). The reasons the Order was issued include:

1. The presence of virus variants of concern in the Province, in particular the Delta variant, has heightened the risk to the population generally and particularly to the frail elderly and persons with underlying medical concern.
2. Residents of facilities are typically elderly and usually have chronic health conditions or compromised immune systems which makes them particularly vulnerable to severe illness and death from COVID-19, even if they are vaccinated.

The order requires the following actions:

Effective September 8, 2021:

1. Require that outside health or personal care providers* who do not provide proof of immunization wear a medical mask and maintain 2m distance from all other persons (with exception for care-provision requirements) while in facility.
2. Require that outside support or personal service providers, and all other outside providers with close resident contact, provide proof of vaccination or not be present on site.

Effective October 12, 2021:

1. Require that all outside health care or personal care providers provide proof of vaccination or not be present on site

*"outside health care or personal care provider" means a physician, nurse, physiotherapist, occupational therapist, home support worker, practicum student providing health care or personal care, faculty member of a health care or personal care educational or training facility, emergency medical assistant, patient transport worker, or any other non-staff member who provides health care or personal care to a resident, but does not include a visitor

You will also be interested to know about a second Provincial Health Order. On Monday, August 23, 2021, Dr. Henry announced that proof of vaccination will be required in BC to access some events, services and businesses. Starting September 13, you must have at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. By October 24, you must be fully vaccinated to access these places. For more information on this order, visit the [proof of vaccination webpage](#).

The residents of our Northern facilities are fortunate to have a dedicated team supporting their care needs. As team members, while it is important that we all recognize how essential having an immunized workforce is, it is also very important that each of us are vigilant in following good public health practices. This includes regular handwashing, safe distancing between workers, wearing masks and other PPE, and not working when symptomatic.