



August 27, 2021

Ref: 268161

Mayors and Regional District Chairs of British Columbia

Dear Mayors and Chairs:

I am writing to provide you with an update on the [recently announced proof of vaccination](#) and [mandatory mask requirements](#) to stop the spread of COVID-19. **Starting Sept. 13, 2021**, proof of vaccination will be required in B.C. for people attending certain social and recreational settings and events. **As of August 25, 2021**, masks are mandatory in indoor public spaces.

I first wish to acknowledge the many people and communities in B.C. continuing to face the crisis of wildfires. I know that in many places you and your residents are under intense stress, facing evacuation orders and alerts and the impact of wildfires' destructive force. Please know that our thoughts and support are with you, along with our deep gratitude for the courage, tireless work and dedication to community demonstrated by you and your staff in this emergency.

Turning again to the recently announced proof of vaccination requirement I would like to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts local governments have made – and continue to make – to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in your communities. I know there is particular interest in how the proof of vaccination requirement will apply to local government business, especially in relation to conducting council/board meetings and public hearings.

The focus of the proof of vaccination requirement is on choice – businesses, places, and activities that people can choose to attend and support if they are vaccinated. That would include, for example, places such as gyms, pools and recreational facilities. The Provincial Health Officer has indicated that it is the intention that the proof of vaccination requirement **won't apply** to formal local government business, including by-elections, council/board meetings and public hearings for both council/board members as well as the public attending these events. The Provincial Health Officer is working on finalizing the formal written order which will outline the specifics. The ministry will provide you with more detailed information once the final order has been published.

The proof of vaccination requirement is not mandatory for employment at this time, other than in specific areas of the health care system starting with Long Term Care, Assisted Living and some other residential care facilities. Employers are accountable for ensuring their workers' safety, further to WorkSafeBC direction (see <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/covid-19/bcs-four-step-restart>) and should

have in place communicable disease plans – including a requirement to stay home when sick, mask wearing where appropriate and regular hand washing. Employers, including local governments, may choose to adopt their own vaccination policies beyond the designated settings but would be responsible for doing their own due diligence.

As noted above, as of August 25, 2021, [masks are mandatory in all indoor public spaces](#) to help slow the transmission of COVID-19 as B.C. prepares for the fall and respiratory illness season. Subject to some exemptions, people 12 years and older must wear masks in indoor public spaces, regardless of vaccination status. These settings include, but are not limited to city halls, libraries, community and recreation centres, areas of office buildings where services to the public are provided, and common areas of sport and fitness centres when not engaged in physical activity.

Here is a summary of the general rules for the proof of vaccination requirement:

[Proof of vaccination](#) – how it works

The requirement applies to all people age 12 years and older. People visiting from outside of B.C. are also required to show proof of vaccination.

There are two key dates:

As of Sept. 13, people in British Columbia will be required to be **partially vaccinated** with at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine to access certain businesses and events.

As of Oct. 24, people in British Columbia will be required to be **fully immunized**, at least seven days after receiving two doses of COVID-19 vaccine, to access the same list of businesses and events.

Here is the current list of settings where proof of vaccination will be required:

- indoor ticketed sporting events
- indoor ticketed concerts/theatre/dance/symphony events
- indoor and outdoor dining at restaurants, pubs, and bars
- night clubs and casinos
- movie theatres
- fitness centres/gyms/pools/recreation facilities (excluding youth recreational sport)
- indoor high-intensity group exercise activities
- organized indoor events (e.g. weddings, parties, conferences, meetings, workshops)
- discretionary organized indoor group recreational classes and activities such as pottery and art classes, but does not include K to 12 school and before and after school programs
- post secondary on-campus student housing (students must be partially vaccinated by September 7)

The requirement is in place until January 31, 2022, subject to possible extension.

Showing proof of vaccination

Individuals will be able to confidentially access their proof of vaccination through a secure website. A web link will be provided and publicized widely before September 13. Individuals will be able to save a

copy of their proof of vaccination to their phone to show when entering or using designated businesses and events. A second, secure option will be provided for people who can't access the website.

We all know the best way to get through this pandemic are vaccines; I would ask for your support to encourage the residents in your communities to get vaccinated. Getting vaccinated is the best choice to protect ourselves, the people we love, and our communities.

Keep watching [BC's Response to COVID-19](#) website for updates. We will continue to work with you over the coming weeks, so that you have the support and information you need to move forward based on the new Provincial Health Officer Orders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Faganello', written in a cursive style.

Tara Faganello
Assistant Deputy Minister

pc: Chief Administrative Officers
Gary MacIsaac, Executive Director, UBCM
Nancy Taylor, Executive Director, LGMA
Todd Pugh, Executive Director, CivicInfo