

Dear Community Member,

This week was an important one in our fight against COVID-19. On Monday we announced that we are moving to Phase 2 of our vaccination strategy and more than 400,000 people in the community will be immunized in March and early April. Even if your age group is not covered in this phase, please convey this information to neighbours, parents, grandparents, church congregants, community group members, clients, and anyone in your network that will be able to access the vaccine in this phase. Not everyone has access to correct information, internet, smart phones etc. so this is an important way to make sure that we help those in our community who may have been isolating for over a year.

Vaccine for Seniors in the Community

Over the coming weeks, all seniors 80+, Indigenous seniors and Elders 65+, as well as staff working in home care and independent living, will be offered their first dose of the vaccine. If you or someone you know meets any of those descriptions, here is what you need to know about how to book your/an appointment:

- **If you are a senior in the living in the community – you must call to book an appointment.**
- If you are a senior living in independent living or receiving home care or are in supportive housing – or are a staff working in those settings– you will be contacted directly by VIHA.
- Appointments for seniors living **in the community** will be taken in order of age.
- If you are:
 - **90+ years old** (born in 1930 or earlier), **or Indigenous seniors who are 65+ years old** (born is 1956 or earlier) you can book a vaccine appointment **starting on March 8**, or any day after
 - **85-89 years old** (born 1936 or earlier) you can book a vaccine appointment **starting on March 15** or any day after
 - **80-84 years old** you can book a vaccine appointment starting on **March 22**, or any day after. (born 1941 or earlier)
- **The number to call for VIHA is 1-833-348-4787**
- Seniors can have a family member, friend or neighbour call on their behalf.
- **You will never be asked for your SIN, driver's licence number or banking and credit card details.**
- When calling you should have ready:
 - Your name
 - Your Birthdate
 - Postal code
 - BC Personal Health Number

You can find more information here: www.gov.bc.ca/bcseniorsfirst.

The more people that get vaccinated, the sooner we will be able to start to see restrictions lifted.

My constituency office is available by phone or email. You can reach us at 250.703.2410 or Ronna-Rae.Leonard.MLA@leg.bc.ca if you have any questions or need assistance with provincial supports.

Sincerely,

Ronna-Rae Leonard

MLA Courtenay-Comox

COVID Resources:

- For medical info, visit bccdc.ca or call 811
- For provincial supports and BC's Restart Plan, visit gov.bc.ca/covid19 or call 1-888-COVID-19 (1-888-268-4319) or text 604-630-0300
- For employer guidelines on returning to work safely, visit WorkSafeBC
- Take the self-assessment at covid19.thrive.health
- For seniors looking for additional support, or for those looking to support seniors, call 2-1-1 or visit bc211.ca

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RonnaRaeLeonard/>

Instagram: @ronnaraeleonard

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYLQfuaKQV-itCluryo2hQg>

Website: <http://ronnaraeleonard.ca/>

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Community Office Hours: Monday to Thursday, 10 am to 4 pm

MY OFFICE REMAINS OPEN TO ASSIST BY PHONE OR EMAIL

www.ronnaraeleonard.ca



It is a privilege to live and work on the traditional lands of the K'omoks First Nations.

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