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COVID-19 Vaccination Process for the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV)

Increasingly, people are presenting to COVID-19 vaccination sites with letters-of-support from healthcare providers for prioritized vaccination. This is outside of the established provincial process and is leading to a strain on clinic resources to manage these discussions, and leading to disappointed patients.

Only those who meet criteria as clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) can be provided an attestation by a physician or nurse practitioner that they are eligible for prioritized vaccination. **Please review and follow the provincial process:**

1. Over 41,000 residents within Island Health have been deemed as CEV and will receive a letter by April 15 on how to book for a COVID-19 vaccination.
2. The recommendation and expectation is for those who meet the CEV eligibility criteria to *wait until April 15* to see if they receive a letter, and *then* if they did not receive a letter can request an attestation from a physician or nurse practitioner.
3. Only the standard attestation form can be used, which lists the CEV eligibility criteria. There are no exemptions outside of the criteria listed. The attestation form is available at doctorsofbc.ca/news/cev-attestation-form-available-doctors (requires Doctors of BC login).
4. If an attestation is provided, the patient must book an appointment by phone through the new provincial system: gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated.html. Walk-ins are not available.
5. The patient must bring the attestation to their appointment.

Frequently asked questions:

- Are family members of those who are CEV eligible for prioritized vaccine? No, they will be eligible with the age-based roll-out unless they meet other eligibility criteria for prioritization.
- Is vaccination prioritized for those with upcoming surgeries? No, they will be eligible with the age-based roll-out unless they meet other eligibility criteria for prioritization.
- How was the criteria for CEV established? Information here: gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/cev
- When will 2nd doses be provided for CEV? Currently, the interval for 2nd doses for all is 16 weeks. This is continually re-assessed at provincial (BCCDC) and federal (NACI) level.

More information:

- gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/cev
- doctorsofbc.ca/advocacy-policy/advocacy/hot-topics/coronavirus-covid-19-updates
- medic.alstaff.islandhealth.ca/cev-vaccination