

# **REPORT**

## ***Office of the Mayor***

**To:** Mayor Cote and Members of Council      **Date:** December 13, 2021

**From:** Denise A Tambellini Intergovernmental and Community Relations Manager      **File:**

**Item #:** 2021-671

**Subject:** Update on the Implementation of the COVID-19 Booster Vaccination Program in New Westminister

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

That Council accept this report regarding the Fraser Health Authority (FHA) COVID-19 booster vaccination program use of city owned facilities in New Westminister for information.

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### **PURPOSE**

That Council accept this report outlining the Fraser Health Authority COVID-19 Booster Vaccination Program in New Westminister for information on the use of city owned facilities and collaboration with FHA to implement the plan.

### **SUMMARY**

New Westminister is among the most fully vaccinated cities in B.C. The city has been working collaboratively with FHA to implement the largest mass vaccination in the province's history. This report summarizes the current COVID-19 booster vaccination program being implemented by Fraser Health in New Westminister. It includes Century House on Saturday and Sunday from September to December 2021 and Century House on Sundays as well as other city facilities on Monday or Friday evenings in 2022.

### **BACKGROUND**

As part of the largest mass vaccination in the Province's history, the government of BC has worked with partners, including local governments, non-profit groups and the private sector to develop and implement the plan. Premier Horgan encouraged all municipal governments to take a leadership role to vaccinate residents of the province.

Early in 2021, staff worked with FHA to implement a plan for COVID-19 vaccinations for the City of New Westminster. Century House was used in the spring and Anvil Centre became the main city owned site for New Westminster. Staff estimate approximately 1,000 people a day were vaccinated at Anvil Centre.

The city owned facilities used were:

Location	Area	Address	Dates of Operation	Began Operation	Ended Operations
Century House	Moody Park – Senior Centre	620 Eighth Street	Tuesday and Thursdays 10:00 am to 6:00 pm	March 16 2021	April 2021
Anvil Centre	Downtown	777 Columbia Street	Seven days per week 7:30 am to 9:30 pm	April 8	August 2021

Staff at Anvil Centre and Century House worked diligently to support Fraser Health’s effort to vaccinate an unprecedented number of residents. We are grateful to the city staff and Fraser Health’s commitment to our community.

**The Role of the City of New Westminster**

The city assisted FHA with the following:

- Identified and facilitated the use of city facilities including subsidizing costs and providing in-kind resources;
- Assisted with site requirements including:
  - Volunteers to assist with wayfinding and customer service
  - Staff support with individual facility plans
  - Marketing assistance including directions and signage
  - Parking plans and public directions
- Project management to coordinate resources required by the city;
- Assistance with vulnerable populations requiring transportation to vaccinations and additional emergency medical assistance;
- Marketing and information sharing with the community; and
- Facilitating the use of 37 New Westminster Fire Rescue Service members to be trained and provide vaccinations at the FHA immunization clinics.

**ANALYSIS**

New Westminster is among the most fully vaccinated places in B.C., according to the latest B.C. Centre for Disease Control data.

The city is among the top 10 local health areas in the province when it comes to the percentage of its eligible population, aged 12 and up that has received two doses of COVID-19 vaccine. (There are 87 local health areas in British Columbia.)<sup>1</sup>

With the new variants of the COVID-19 disease emerging, the Provincial government is now transitioning to 3<sup>rd</sup> dose COVID-19 boosters vaccinations for the following people:

- Seniors 70 plus years of age,
- Indigenous people 18 plus years of age,
- Rural and remote Indigenous communities,
- People receiving care and who are moderately to severely immunocompromised (attachment 1),
- Healthcare workers, and
- People who received AstraZeneca.

In January there will be a general invitation to those 18 years of age or older, who are interested, to receive a 3<sup>rd</sup> dose COVID-19 booster vaccination.

The city is currently working with Fraser Health to determine appropriate city owned venues for use as COVID-19 booster vaccination sites. Along with potential sites from the private sector (pharmacies and the like), the following city owned sites are confirmed and administering (or are anticipated to be administering) COVID-19 booster doses:

Location	Area	Address	Dates of Operation	Begin Operation	End Operations
Century House	Moody Park – Senior Centre	620 Eighth Street	Saturday and Sunday 9:00 to 5:00pm	September 2021	December 18, 2021
Century House	Moody Park – Senior Centre	620 Eighth Street	Sundays 10:00 to 5:00	January 9, 2022	TBD

Monday or Friday evenings will be also be available in various city owned facilities in 2022. **All appointments are organized by Fraser Health** and contact will be made through the Get Vaccinated system.

Registration is available through the Fraser Health website.  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/booster>

<sup>1</sup> BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC)[http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/data-reports/covid-19-surveillance-dashboard?utm\\_source=new%20west%20record&utm\\_campaign=new%20west%20record%3A%20outbound&utm\\_medium=referral](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/data-reports/covid-19-surveillance-dashboard?utm_source=new%20west%20record&utm_campaign=new%20west%20record%3A%20outbound&utm_medium=referral)

Fraser Health has indicated that they will increase the times available for COVID-19 booster vaccinations in New Westminster based on demand from the community.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The intention of the city is to ensure all residents who want COVID-19 vaccinations or booster vaccinations, get vaccinated. The city continues to support the smooth operation of the mass COVID-19 vaccination by FHA in New Westminster and the improve health and well-being of our community.

The city is providing in-kind support for the community vaccination clinics. Funding is provided by FHA to assist in offsetting the costs associated with the use of local facilities and provided on an equitable basis across all cities in the Province.

### **INTERDEPARTMENTAL LIAISON**

This report has been developed in collaboration with the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Office of the CAO.

### **OPTIONS**

1. That Council accept this report for information.
2. That Council provide other advice.

### **CONCLUSION**

The city has worked collaboratively with Fraser Health to vaccinate the majority of the population in New Westminster. Staff request Council receive this report for information on the next stage of vaccinations which includes COVID-19 booster vaccinations at city owned facilities.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1: Dose 3 for people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised

This report was prepared by:  
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