

September 16, 2021

Dear Patients,

Medical Exemptions for COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination

By order of the Provincial Health Officer (PHO), proof of vaccination is required to access some services, businesses, and events in British Columbia. As of September 13, 2021, you must have at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, and by October 24th, you must be fully vaccinated. This order is in place until January 31, 2022 and may be extended. All British Columbians born in 2009 or earlier (12+) are required to show [proof of vaccination](#).

As some patients are asking for exemptions from the need to have proof of vaccination, we are writing to clarify that there are **no medical exemptions** for the requirement to have proof of vaccination. People who are unable to be vaccinated against COVID-19 for medical reasons are not exempt from the proof of vaccination requirement. This policy has been set by the Ministry of Health and BC Centre for Disease Control.

As a result, doctors are unable to write you a letter exempting you from receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccination is not mandatory in British Columbia, with the exception of healthcare workers working in health authority facilities.

We appreciate that you may have concerns about the new requirements for proof of vaccination. As your physicians, we are here to provide you with accurate immunization advice and discuss your concerns. We cannot, however, grant your request for a letter of medical exemption.

You can find more information about COVID-19 vaccine safety and other vaccine considerations on the [BC Centre for Disease Control website](#).

Sincerely,
Your Family Doctors