



October 18, 2021

Cliff: 6784

Shawna LaRade, President
Scott McCannell, Director
Professional Employees' Association
505 – 1207 Douglas Street
Victoria, BC V8W 2E7

Dear Shawna LaRade and Scott McCannell:

Thank you for your letter dated October 04, 2021 by email. I am responding to the concerns you have expressed regarding the implementation of returning to the offices under the flexible work policy. I acknowledge your request to consider linkages to the science where appropriate as part of this implementation.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic the BC Public Service has aligned its response to the advice and direction of the Provincial Health Officer, and this helps to keep our workplaces safe throughout the pandemic. We also know that vaccination is the safest, most effective measure to reduce the transmission of the virus in our communities. After meeting with Dr. Bonnie Henry on the next steps for the BC Public Service to support our provincial fight against COVID-19, I have decided the BC Public Service will require all employees to provide proof they are fully vaccinated beginning November 22, 2021.

To align with this direction, we have further deferred the implementation of telework agreements approved under the flexible work policy to November 22 from the previous date of October 12. Employees who are fully vaccinated and wish to return to the workplace before November 22 can activate their telework agreements and are encouraged and supported to do so in consultation with their supervisor. Confirmation of vaccination by using the B.C. Vaccine Card will not be required until November 22.

For those who are not yet vaccinated, now is the time and I encourage you to support your membership to do so. The COVID-19 vaccines are a safe, easy step to protect your members, their colleagues, their families, and our communities. For information on how to get the COVID-19 vaccination, visit the [provincial vaccine registration website](#). For information on how to get the B.C. Vaccine Card, visit [Proof of vaccination and the BC Vaccine Card](#).

Sincerely,

Lori Wanamaker
Deputy Minister to the Premier,
Cabinet Secretary and Head of the BC Public Service