

Port Transportation Association



Ministry of Health
1515 Blanshard St.
Victoria BC V8W 3C8

February 19, 2021

RE: Vaccination Opportunities for the Trucking Community

Dear Hon. Dix and Dr. Henry,

Please accept this letter from the Port Transportation Association (PTA) in effort to raise awareness to the COVID-19 risk among the trucking community and ask that this risk be considered when determining vaccine priorities.

The trucking community has been deemed an essential service, and we have taken pride in answering that call to ensure the timely shipments of goods. Unfortunately, as an essential service, this means that many drivers face additional risk of contracting COVID-19.

Although companies and drivers are following all COVID-19 procedures, the daily interactions of drivers are well above what other citizens are typically having in a day. With the introduction of more transmissible variants, this does cause some pause and concern within our community, as the potential of spread is quite high.

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For transparency and industry purposes, the PTA intends to distribute all content and post all meaningful dialogue on our website, to be viewed by both industry and the public.

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Drivers required to cross the border into the USA also face additional risks, as the USA has managed COVID-19 in a different manner than Canada. We also have concerns regarding the new California variant, as the BC to California shipping lane is very active and has potential to accelerate the spread.

The PTA is not suggesting the trucking community be offered vaccines before those most vulnerable or on the front lines in our Province; however, we are requesting that when you are determining the next grouping eligible for the vaccine, that the trucking community be considered due to our increased risk of both getting and transmitting COVID-19.

We thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

The Port Transportation Association

CC:

Premier J. Horgan

Hon. H. Bains

Hon. R. Fleming