

New Public Health Order Requires COTBC to Record Vaccination Status of Registrants



March 8, 2022

For information only: no action required

On March 7, 2022, a new Order of the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) was issued “to prevent or reduce the risk of the transmission of infection with SARS-CoV-2 by health professionals.”

The [Health Professionals COVID-19 Vaccination Status Information and Preventive Measures Order](#) requires COTBC to record the COVID-19 vaccination status of all its registrants by March 31, 2022. On request by COTBC, registrants must provide proof if they are vaccinated or have an exemption. It also requires the College to disclose to the PHO or medical health officer, on request, registrant information regarding vaccination status and place of work, either in aggregate or by individual.

COTBC is currently assessing the specific actions required under the Order. We will provide further information in the next few days.

Until that time, we respectfully ask that you DO NOT send us any inquiries or documentation related to the Order or your vaccination status. For more information, we encourage you to [read the Order via the Government of BC website](#).

FAQs:

1. Does the Order require registrants to be vaccinated against COVID-19?

- No. This Order requires COTBC to record the COVID-19 vaccination status of all registrants, but it does not impose a COVID-19 vaccination requirement.
- Please note that separate public health orders remain in place requiring COVID-19 vaccination for health professionals working in [residential care](#), [acute care and community care](#) settings.

2. Which health professionals are covered by this Order?

- The Order applies to **all** BC regulated health professionals across **all** registration categories, including occupational therapists.

3. Does the Order apply to College registrants who provide only telehealth/virtual services?

- Yes. COTBC is required to record the COVID-19 vaccination status of all registrants.

4. As a registrant, will I need to take action to have my vaccination status recorded by the College?

- Unless we contact you for further information, you **DO NOT** need to provide any information to the college or the provincial government about your vaccination status. We will provide more information as it becomes available.

5. What will the College accept as a valid exemption to vaccination?

- A valid exemption must be one issued by the Office of the Provincial Health Officer (PHO).

6. Under what authority can the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) issue public health orders?

- The PHO has the legal authority to issue emergency preventive measures orders under the *Public Health Act (Act)*. Under the *Act*, all individuals and organizations are required to comply with the requirements set by the PHO.

Be Calm, Be Kind, Be Safe.