



The Corporation of the Village of Salmo

REGULAR MEETING #09-21 MINUTES

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council of the Village of Salmo held electronically on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Diana Lockwood Councillor Farrell Segall
Councillor Jennifer Endersby CAO Anne Williams
Councillor Jacque Huser Members of the Public - 1

REGRETS: Councillor Jonathon Heatlie.

CALL TO ORDER: The Mayor called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

COUNCIL PROCEDURE BYLAW #663, 2014:

R1-09-21 Moved and seconded, that due to the exceptional circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic, that Council waive the requirements of *Council Procedure Bylaw #663, 2014* Section 8 Electronic Meetings, Parts (4) & (5), to allow all Council members to participate via electronic means in order to comply with provincially mandated physical distancing requirements and not holding public gatherings, and that provision be made for members of the public to listen electronically to the Council meeting.

Carried.

AGENDA:

R2-09-21 Moved and seconded, that the draft agenda of Regular Meeting #09-21 of Tuesday, May 11, 2021 be adopted as amended from *Council Procedure Bylaw No. 663, 2014* Schedule "A" to include a New Business section, a Rise & Report section, a Public Question period and that the delegation request from the Salmo Farmer's Market be removed.

Carried.

DELEGATIONS: NIL

NEW BUSINESS:

R3-09-21 Councillor Huser recommended that due to issues that the Mayor has with her tablet, that a desktop PC hard-wired to the Village's internet be purchased for the Mayor's office. Council agreed. The CAO advised that with set-up and installation the cost would likely be under \$2K, but a \$3K budget would be best to ensure all costs are covered. This will be funded by the COVID grant.

Moved and seconded, that staff be directed to purchase a desktop computer for \$3,000 or less for the Mayor's office and that it be connected to the Village's server and internet.

Carried.

RISE & REPORT:

R4-09-21 Moved and seconded, that Council rise and report the motion from the April 13, 2021 In Camera meeting concerning Council agreement to hire a fourth civic works employee on a one-year contract.

Carried.

MINUTES:

R5-09-21 Moved and seconded, that the minutes of the 75th Anniversary Media Select Committee Meeting of Thursday, April 1, 2021 be adopted as presented.

75th Anniversary Media Select Committee April 1, 2021 Carried.

R6-09-21 Moved and seconded, that the minutes of the Time Capsule Standing Committee Meeting of Wednesday, April 7, 2021 be adopted as presented.

Carried.

R7-09-21 Moved and seconded, that the draft minutes of Regular Meeting #08-21 of Tuesday, April 27, 2021 be adopted as presented.

REFERRALS FROM DELEGATIONS: NIL

REFERRALS FROM PRIOR MEETINGS:

R8-09-21 Moved and seconded, that this discussion be tabled to the May 25th meeting.

Council Portfolio & Reporting Template Discussion

Carried.

Mayor Lockwood reminded everyone to send her their thoughts regarding what is the purpose of the various portfolios and what a Councillor should be responsible for doing as the holder of a particular portfolio.

R9-09-21 Council discussed the CAO's Report to Council regarding the options for the location of a playground in Lions Park and equipment supplier options. Both suppliers manufacture their equipment in Canada, with the exception of the accessible swing from Henderson, which comes from Germany. It was agreed that Option 1 for location would be best and that Swingtime/Blue Imp should be the supplier. They also supplied the equipment at KP Park.

Lions Park Playground Discussion

The CAO will check to see if the main configuration could include a double slide and ask for a layout incorporating the stand-alone options for Council to agree on the week of May 17th via email in order that the order may be placed. Delivery is between 6-12 weeks. Favourites that could be incorporated or stand-alone include:

- Teeter-totter
- Quark climber

- Something that spins – possibly a large playground roundabout
- The surfer
- Tic tac toe
- Something instead of the school bus
- Something for climbing to that builds upper body strength

Moved and seconded, that Council directs staff to locate the playground in Lions Park as per Option 1 and that SwingTime be the selected vendor, layout to be agreed on by Council via email prior to ordering.

Carried.

POLICY DEVELOPMENT & REVIEW:

R10-09-21 Council discussed the Municipal Facilities Use Policy A-004. It was
Policy A-004 Municipal agreed that the policy would remain as is, but bullets two and three
Facilities Use would be reworked to eliminate the age requirement and for further
clarity. The CAO will bring the updated policy back to the next
meeting.

BYLAW DEVELOPMENT & REVIEW: NIL

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:

R11-09-21 Moved and seconded, that Council receive for information the list of
accounts payable cheques and electronic fund transfers from April 23,
2021 to May 6, 2021 totaling \$32,668.83.

Carried.

CORRESPONDENCE REQUIRING A COUNCIL DECISION:

R12-09-21 Council discussed the proposed survey. It was agreed that the service
RDCK Re: Survey would be very expensive. Any advertising regarding the survey must
Opportunity – advise residents of the estimated costs. Mayor Lockwood noted that it
Municipal Organic is really important that the costs of the service are understood.
Waste Collection - #41

Moved and seconded, that Council support the inclusion of the Village
of Salmo in the RDCK's survey to ask residents about their interest in a
potential organic waste curbside collection service and that Village
requests the survey should include the cost of service.

Carried.

Barbara Murphy, Bears Council declined to make a motion regarding this issue.
Matter Consulting Re:
Resolution Request -
Moratorium on Wolf
Hunting in B.C. - #43

Grant-in-Aid Request: Council discussed the grant-in-aid request for \$300 for the Salmo Valley Trail Society to assist with waterproof signage for their trail heads.
Salmo Valley Trail Society - #47

It was agreed that insufficient information was supplied as to their organization's budget and as to whether or not they are receiving support from other organizations as well. It is important that they are. Therefore, they will be asked to provide the requested information so Council may consider their request at the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

R13-09-21

Moved and seconded, that Council receive for information the following correspondence from:

- (1) Peace River Regional District Re: Lack of Funding - Invasive Plant Management - #38
- (2) Town of View Royal Re: Request for Authority and Training for Hospital Security Staff - #39
- (3) City of Kamloops Re: Support for Professional News Media - #40
- (4) City of Campbell River Re: Logging of At-Risk Old-Growth Forests in the Province - #42
- (5) Child Care Professionals of BC Re: May is Child Care Month - #44
- (6) Town of Fort Erie Re: Federal Government Providing Transparency with Regard to Plans to Reopen the Canada-US Border - #45
- (7) Colin Hango Re: TESA Program Application - #46

Carried.

MEMBER REPORTS & INQUIRIES:

Councillor Endersby Councillor Endersby had nothing to report.

Councillor Huser See *Appendix A*.

Councillor Huser also asked why the washrooms at KP park were closed on Monday but open on Sunday for the market. She stated the bylaw says they will be open April 20th onwards¹.

The CAO noted that the washrooms were being painted and that staff had also had to wait to clear up after the "phantom pooper" (someone who accessed and filled every toilet to the brim over the winter, the results of which then froze). New security measures are now in place.

Council members also enquired as to why the campground is not yet open. The CAO reminded them of the no travel advisory due to COVID. Council agreed they want the washrooms and campground opened

¹ Bylaw 700, Part 3 Park Hours states in section 3.2 (a) KP Park – April 20th to October 31st or as determined by the Civic Works Foreman, in consultation with the CAO, dependant on weather conditions and/or other pertinent issues.

immediately. The painting could be postponed. The CAO will direct Civic Works to open everything up.

Councillor Segall See *Appendix A*.

Mayor Lockwood See *Appendix B*.

R14-09-21
Verbal & Written
Reports of Mayor &
Council Moved and seconded, that the verbal and written reports of Mayor
and Council be received for information. Carried.

PUBLIC QUESTION PERIOD:

Maureen Berk Ms. Berk wondered about the danger of foul balls in the new
playground and suggested that the Village look into ‘sails’ to protect
the area. She also recommended that play equipment promoting the
development of upper body strength be incorporated into the
playground.

Councillor Endersby Councillor Endersby advised that she had been told there was a person
who camped for free most of last summer. The CAO advised that she
had not heard anything about it. There was the one homeless person
who kept sleeping in the various dugouts and we had the RCMP
keeping an eye on that situation. The campground manager also keeps
an eye out for illegal campers. The CAO will check into the matter
further.

ADJOURNMENT: Moved, that the meeting be adjourned at 8:57 p.m. Carried.
R15-09-21

I hereby certify the preceding to be a true and correct account of the Regular Meeting of Council held on Tuesday, May 11, 2021.

Originally Signed By:

Diana Lockwood
Mayor

Anne Williams
Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix A

Councillor Huser's Report for Council Meeting held on May 11, 2021

EXTERNAL AGENCIES:

SVYCC LIAISON: Nothing to report

PORTFOLIO/LIAISON POSITIONS:

BYLAW REVIEW: Nothing to report

CIVIC WORKS: Nothing to report

PARKS: May 4, 2021 – I was at the Lions Park and noticed that there was a large red ant hill located on the North side of the backstop and noticed that the water had been turned on and had a small steady stream was running from the tap.

May 5, 2021 – I saw that that road by the campsites was being graded.

CEMETERY: Working Group: still waiting on the pricing but have a more detailed drawing that is being sent out to the group for input and review.

OTHER:

April 24th I attended the AKBLG AGM – the following are the resolutions – if anyone would like the details behind these resolutions, I could send them – only 1 was not endorsed:

1. City of **Fernie** – Property Tax Assisted Clean Energy (PACE) - Endorsed
2. Village of **Fruitvale** – Commercial Business Recycling – **NOT** Endorsed
3. City of **Grand Forks** – Additional Resources for Mental Health - Endorsed
4. Village of **Nakusp** – Green Energy - Endorsed
5. City of **Nelson** – Circular Economy Strategy - Endorsed
6. City of **Nelson** – Commitment to a Province Wide Strategy to Manage Construction and Demolition Waste - Endorsed
7. City of **Nelson** – Right to Repair - Endorsed
8. City of **Nelson** – Funding for Regional Housing - Endorsed
9. City of **Nelson** – Agroforest Specific Tenure License - Endorsed
10. **Central Kootenay RD** – COVID Restart Grant Funds (**WITHDRAWN**)
11. **Central Kootenay RD** – Issuance of Water Licenses - Endorsed
12. **East Kootenay RD** – BC Ambulance Rural Service - Endorsed
13. **East Kootenay RD** – BC Hydro Pole Rental Sales - Endorsed
14. **East Kootenay RD** – Industrial, Commercial and Institutional Sector Recyclables - Endorsed
15. **Kootenay Boundary RD** – COVID Restart Funds (**WITHDRAWN**)
16. **Kootenay Boundary RD** – Local Control of Land Use Practises - Endorsed
17. **Kootenay Boundary RD** – Mental Health and Addiction Support During the Pandemic - Endorsed
18. City of **Rossland** – Standard Procedure for Wildlife Rehabilitation - Endorsed
19. Village of **Kaslo** – Aging in Place - Endorsed

April 30th – My apologies to Councillor Segall – I was unable to attend the 75th anniversary media committee meeting.

Respectfully submitted, Councillor Huser



The Corporation of the Village of Salmo
Report from Council

Councillor Segall

External Agencies :

Chamber of Commerce :

Update regarding Mining Exhibit:
Signage is underway and to include QR code link to online reference info.
Map of exhibit to appear behind existing large sign board.

Alternate :

Nothing to report.

Portfolios / Liaisons :

Economic Development :

Registered for a BCEDA webinar -Economic Recovery Townhall – Friday May 14th

Environment :

Nothing to report.

Transportation :

Registered with SpareLabs for a webinar to gather more info regarding integrating Para-transit with automated technology – May 13th

Internal Governance :

Bylaw and Policy Review :
Nothing to report.

Other :

75th Anniversary Media Select Committee Meeting
30th April - online meeting.

Cannabis Economic Development Council :

May 6th - Participated in monthly full council online meeting. No public release of information available at this stage.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Segall
Date: 6th May 2021

Appendix B



Diana L.D. Lockwood

Mayor

Mayor/Director Report April 23 to May 6, 2021

April 29, Nelson, Salmo and Areas E, F, & G Regional Parks Commission Meeting was held. Selous Creek Fuel Treatment and Rail Trail Closure was contemplated. RDCK staff's recommendation was to notify MoTI that this commission does not support the construction of a 20m diagonal road crossing of the Great Northern Trail (GNT) by Kalesnikoff Mass Timber and Lumber Company. This recommendation passed although I voted opposed and the reason for that is Kalesnikoff states that this road would create efficiencies in their operations. We speak volumes in other services provided by the RDCK about Climate Actions and if there is a way for the RDCK to help improve efficiencies I was in favor of that. However, in no way prohibits the project from moving forward if this efficiency were not to happen. The second resolution was for the Commission to direct staff to work with Kalesnikoff Mass Timber and Lumber Company to ensure minimal disruption of public use of the GNT and further that any disruption to public access of the trail happen outside the highest use months.

McDonalds Landing Regional Park – Initial Planning. In the budget there is \$30,000 allocated to Service 202 for a park planning process. Staff has been authorized to proceed with the necessary assessments and studies to review and understand the potential park management issues related to McDonalds Landing Regional Park and surrounding access to water locations.

April 30, I attended an **Economic Trust of the Southern Interior (ETSI-BC) special board meeting**. We have had our review about the trust with the Legislative Review Committee and went over the recommendations.

May 3, I attended **Highway 3 Mayors & Chairs Committee**. As the Clarke Hill west of Princeton project is underway, we were able to move up the Creston Highway 3 alignment to top priorities. MoTI explained that whenever they are looking at a project, they always consider wildlife corridors and bike lanes when possible, so we have removed this item from our next priorities, so have two open spots. We have added Erie Creek Bridge West of Salmo to add a walking/biking bridge or an extension for people crossing this bridge. I have sent off pictures and recommendations.

May 3, the **Time Capsule Committee** met. Minutes to follow.

May 6, Mayor's Vaccine Roundtable with Interior Health weekly meeting. **I will send the update**

tomorrow when IHA sends it out instead of me piece mealing it together.

May 6, Sutco graded the section of Nelson Salmo Great Northern Trail from Salmo for 3km's to the crossing of Highway 6. I would like to thank Sutco for truly being a great supporter of our communities.



Information to support discussions about COVID-19 vaccination and pregnancy

Background

People who are pregnant have been prioritized for COVID-19 vaccination and can now book a vaccine appointment, regardless of age. To book an appointment, **call 1-833-838-2323** and they can inform the operator that they are pregnant. Pregnant people should also register at gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated to ensure they receive an invitation to book a second dose appointment at the appropriate time.

Discussion points

- Getting the COVID-19 vaccine for women who are pregnant/people who are pregnant (as well as those who are planning to become pregnant or breastfeeding) is safe and the best way to protect them against COVID-19.
- Pregnant women and pregnant individuals who have COVID-19 appear more likely to develop complications requiring intensive care admission than women and individuals who are not pregnant. The rate of ICU admissions for people who are pregnant is on par with adults aged 55-59.
- The recommendation to get vaccinated during pregnancy is supported by the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC), the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) and public health experts in B.C.
- Women should not be excluded or deferred from vaccination due to being pregnant. The vaccine is recommended at any time during pregnancy.
- Most pregnant women/people who are pregnant will be booking through the provincial Get Vaccinated system and will be offered an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna), however any of the COVID-19 vaccines are recommended in pregnancy
- Any COVID-19 vaccine is a good vaccine. Blood clotting events that have been reported with the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccines do not occur by the same mechanism that increase the risk of blood clots during pregnancy. The risk of a blood clotting event from COVID-19 infection is higher than the risk from these two vaccines.
- The decision to get vaccinated is up to the individual. For most people, getting a COVID-19 vaccine is the safest choice to protect them from COVID-19.
- In making the decision, they should consider their individual circumstances, including their likelihood of exposure to the COVID-19 virus at work, home and community.



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- The decision to get vaccinated is up to the individual. For most people, getting a COVID-19 vaccine is the safest choice to protect them from COVID-19.
- In making the decision, they should consider their individual circumstances, including their likelihood of exposure to the COVID-19 virus at work, home and community.
- They should also consider if there are additional factors that may put them at greater risk of experiencing severe illness from COVID-19 such as being very



- overweight, diabetes, asthma, high blood pressure, kidney, liver, lung or heart disease, or smoking.
- Some will decide their risks of getting a serious COVID-19 infection are very low, and choose not to be vaccinated. Others will decide their very real risks support vaccination.

Patient resources:

- [Information handout](#) developed by BC Centre for Disease Control and Perinatal Services BC at <http://bccdc.ca/vaccineconsiderations#pregnant>
- Further information at: <https://www.pregnancyinfo.ca/covid/>

Addressing common questions from patients

Could the COVID-19 vaccine cause infertility?

Background: The widespread social media concern stems from misinformation about the similarities between syncytin-1 (used for placental implantation) and the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein.

- Information for client:
 - We understand these questions have been circulating online.
 - The vaccine will not impact your fertility. There has been some misinformation spreading about the similarity of a protein from the virus that causes COVID-19, the spike protein, and a protein that is needed to become pregnant and that the antibodies developed following vaccination could interfere with pregnancy. In fact, while the two proteins have some similar building blocks, they are quite different. The antibodies produced against the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein will not react or interfere with the protein needed to become pregnant.

Timing of COVID-19 vaccine with other vaccines:

- Usually we recommend that you do not get the COVID-19 vaccine within 14 days of another vaccine so that the immune responses to the vaccines do not interfere with one another, and so that if you experience side effects from one vaccine, they are not confused with another.
- We recommend that you wait 28 days after COVID-19 vaccine to get the Tdap vaccine for pertussis. However, if the vaccines are given closer together, neither needs to be repeated.

Heard it was not recommended for pregnant people

- The SOGC recommends any COVID-19 vaccine at any time during pregnancy or breastfeeding.
- There is a very real risk of COVID-19 and we know that women and people who are pregnant are more likely to experience severe illness.



- The vaccine was not specifically tested on people who were pregnant. However, during the trials, some people who received the vaccines ended up getting pregnant. Since then, millions of doses have now been administered around the world including to pregnant people, without a safety signal being identified. Available emerging studies of safety of the mRNA vaccines in pregnancy are supportive of safety.
- Based on what we know about how these vaccines work, there is no theoretical reason to think they would be unsafe, or less safe in pregnancy.
- The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC), the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) and public health experts in B.C. all agree and recommend that pregnant people should be vaccinated. Other provinces, including New Brunswick, Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan are also prioritizing pregnant people for COVID-19 immunization

Risk of blood clots from the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine

- Most people who are pregnant will be booking through the provincial Get Vaccinated system and will be offered an mRNA vaccine: Pfizer or Moderna.
- Any COVID-19 vaccine is a good vaccine. Blood clotting events that have been reported with the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccines do not occur by the same mechanism that increase the risk of blood clots during pregnancy. The risk of a blood clotting event from COVID-19 infection is higher than the risk from these two vaccines.
- The BCCDC website has more information about the blood clotting events and information about monitoring the safety of COVID-19 vaccines.

COVID-19
Planning for your vaccine

BRITISH COLUMBIA
Ministry of Health

BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority

**You're pregnant or breastfeeding.
Should you get a COVID-19 vaccine?**

This handout is meant to help you make an informed choice about whether to get a COVID-19 vaccine while you are pregnant or breastfeeding. For most people, getting a COVID-19 vaccine is the safest choice to protect them from COVID-19. While these vaccines have not yet been tested in those who are pregnant or breastfeeding, health experts in Canada agree that getting a COVID-19 vaccine is a reasonable choice for most pregnant and breastfeeding people. You will need to make a decision based on your own comfort, your individual risk of getting COVID-19, and the chance that you may get seriously ill if you get infected.



COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy or breastfeeding

It is important to know that:

- There is currently no known specific serious risk (such as an increased risk of miscarriage or possible birth defect) of getting a COVID-19 vaccine while pregnant or breastfeeding* (or providing expressed human milk) to either the person being vaccinated or the child.
 - There is no need to avoid starting or stopping breastfeeding if you get a COVID-19 vaccine.
- * *Not everyone uses the term breastfeeding to describe their feeding experience and may prefer to use other terms such as nursing or chestfeeding. Use whichever terms you're most comfortable with, and ask that your friends, family and health care providers use them, too.*

Benefits of getting a COVID-19 vaccine while you are pregnant or breastfeeding


**Being infected with COVID-19 can make you very sick.
It may make you even sicker if you are pregnant.**

- If you are infected with COVID-19 and are pregnant, you are three times more likely to end up in the intensive care unit (ICU) than those infected with COVID-19 who are not pregnant.
- If you are pregnant and you have diabetes, asthma, high blood pressure, kidney, liver, lung or heart disease, are very overweight or are a smoker, you are even more likely to be seriously ill from COVID-19 if you get this infection.
 - Preterm birth may be more common if you are pregnant and become severely ill with COVID-19.

Currently available COVID-19 vaccines are very effective in preventing people from getting sick with COVID-19.

- The clinical trials that studied the COVID-19 vaccine did not include individuals who were pregnant or breastfeeding. However, there is no reason to believe that the vaccines would not work as well if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.
- If you are at higher risk of exposure to COVID-19, a vaccine can help protect you from getting sick with COVID-19 and may reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19 to others.
- The vaccine helps your body to produce antibodies that will protect you from getting sick if you are exposed to COVID-19. These protective antibodies pass into your milk and may also protect your child from infection.

COVID-19 Planning for your vaccine



**You're pregnant or breastfeeding.
Should you get a COVID-19 vaccine?**

Benefits of getting a COVID-19 vaccine while you are pregnant or breastfeeding *(continued)*

The COVID-19 vaccines are safe and cannot give you COVID-19.

- These vaccines have no live virus and cannot cause COVID-19.
- Other vaccines routinely given in pregnancy or during breastfeeding are safe
 - For example, tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis and influenza vaccines are commonly given during pregnancy
 - Discuss the ideal time to wait between vaccines with your care provider if you are getting other vaccines in pregnancy.



Risks of getting a COVID-19 vaccine while pregnant or breastfeeding

COVID-19 vaccines have not yet been tested in pregnant or breastfeeding people.

- Clinical trials are monitoring study participants who became pregnant before or shortly after receiving vaccine doses. To date, there have been no harmful effects or specific serious risks such as increased risk of miscarriage or birth defects, noted from the vaccine on pregnant or breastfeeding people.
- Studies of these vaccines in pregnant and breastfeeding people are now being done and will provide information in the future.

For people who choose to get immunized while pregnant or become pregnant shortly after immunization, you may wish to participate in a study of Canadian COVID-19 Vaccine for Pregnant and Lactating Women with University of British Columbia:
<https://ridprogram.med.ubc.ca/vaccine-surveillance>

Side effects are common after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine.

- Common side effects include:
 - Pain, redness or swelling at the injection site
 - Fatigue
 - Headache
 - Muscle pain
 - Chills
 - Joint pain
 - Fever
- Fever in pregnancy or when breastfeeding can be managed safely by taking acetaminophen (Tylenol®). If however, you are concerned about this side effect, discuss your concerns with your care provider, as one option may be to delay your COVID-19 vaccine until after your first trimester.

COVID-19 Planning for your vaccine



You're pregnant or breastfeeding. Should you get a COVID-19 vaccine?

What do the experts currently recommend?

The **BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC)** recommends vaccination because it reduces the likelihood of getting COVID-19; vaccination protects both you and those around you. The **Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada (SOGC)** recommends that pregnant or breastfeeding people should be offered the COVID-19 vaccine at any time if they are eligible and if they have no contraindications. The SOGC also says that a vaccination decision should be based on an individual's personal values and their understanding of the risks and benefits of getting or not getting the vaccine while pregnant or breastfeeding.

Canada's National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends that the COVID-19 vaccine may be offered to pregnant and breastfeeding people if the benefits outweigh the risks for each pregnant person and their unborn baby, and if the individual makes their decision knowing that there is currently no study evidence on how well the COVID-19 vaccines protect pregnant or breastfeeding people, and whether it is as safe as for non-pregnant people, including the developing baby.

Balancing the risks and benefits to decide what's right for you

To help make an informed decision, try to understand as much as you can about COVID-19 and the vaccine. The BCCDC has information that can help: <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/covid-19-vaccines>

Consider your individual circumstances, including your likelihood of exposure to the COVID-19 virus at work and in your home and community.

Additional considerations include:

- Do you have medical conditions that could cause you to be seriously ill if you get COVID-19?
- Are you able to work from home to reduce the risk of getting COVID-19 until the end of your pregnancy?

Balancing the risks and benefits will help you decide what's right for you. Your options are:

- 1 To get the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as it is available to you in BC.
- 2 To get the COVID-19 vaccine later on in your pregnancy. Discuss with your care provider (doctor, nurse, midwife, or nurse practitioner) about when you feel most comfortable getting the vaccine during your pregnancy. For example, if you are concerned about fever as a side effect during the first trimester you might choose to receive it early in your second trimester.
- 3 To wait for more information about the COVID-19 vaccine in pregnancy and breastfeeding.
- 4 To choose not to get vaccinated until after pregnancy. You are the decision maker. If you choose not to be vaccinated for COVID-19, that decision will not impact or change the care that you receive from your healthcare providers.

If you get the COVID-19 vaccine, continue to follow Public Health Guidelines:

Maintain physical distance, clean your hands regularly, wear a mask, and follow public health advice.

For more info, visit www.pregnancyinfo.ca/covid