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## MEMORANDUM

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TO: BCSS MEMBER SCHOOL AD'S & ADMINISTRATORS  
FROM: JORDAN ABNEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
SUBJECT: CLARIFICATION ON RECENT UPDATES TO PROVINCIAL/REGIONAL HEALTH ORDERS  
DATE: NOVEMBER 1, 2021  
CC: BCSS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, BCSS ZONE LEADERSHIP, SAC CHAIRS

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Last week there were updates to Provincial Health Orders and Regional Health Orders in BC. Some of these changes were not announced publicly, which has led to some confusion about their effect and impact.

The updates to the provincial order of October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, requiring vaccinations for volunteer coaches to be vaccinated **DOES NOT APPLY to schools and school sport**. Section U of the order, as it has in previous iterations, exempts school related activities from the order which includes school sport. Schools will continue to follow the K-12 Health and Safety Guidelines, and the supplementary BC School Sports Return to School Sport Guidelines.

It is important to note that there are some Regional Health Authorities that have orders in place and were recently updated. Particularly of note is the updated order in the Northern Health Authority, as per the order, areas in the Northern Health Authority, that are east of Kitwanga have additional restrictions, some of which do apply to schools and school related personnel such as coaches. There has been some confusion around exactly who this applies to, and the school districts and health authority are working to resolve this uncertainty. All schools in the Northern Health Authority, should confirm with their school district the exact expectations, as each district is working with Northern Health on this matter.

As we enter the championship season, which will see student-athletes travelling to represent their schools at zone and provincial championships in the coming weeks, and as we look ahead to the Winter Season of Play beginning in just a few weeks' time, we reiterate our position that we strongly recommend all student-athletes, coaches and officials get vaccinated.

As always, should there be any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the BCSS office.