

**Joint BCRS/CAMRT-BC Position Statement on
Access to COVID-19 Vaccination for Medical Imaging Professionals in BC**

The British Columbia Radiological Society (BCRS) and the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists – British Columbia (CAMRT-BC) welcome and support the BC government's Vaccine Distribution Taskforce to guide the vaccine prioritization and distribution across the province.

The BCRS and CAMRT-BC strongly advocates that the Government of British Columbia prioritize medical imaging professionals inclusive of radiologists, residents, fellows, medical radiation technologists, diagnostic medical sonographers and staff that practice in both hospital and community settings in the first round of vaccinations, ensuring equitable safety and access for critical health care professionals and their patients. Quality diagnostic imaging requires a team approach.

British Columbia's medical imaging teams provide millions of diagnostic imaging services annually in BC hospitals as well as in Community Imaging Clinics (CICs). These services include general x-ray, ultrasound, mammography, nuclear medicine, fluoroscopy, CT, MRI, biopsies, and interventional radiology procedures. Up to 50% of general x-rays and ultrasounds, with more than 50% of mammography and obstetrical assessments are provided in the British Columbia's CICs.

It is critical that the British Columbia vaccination plan be clarified to include radiologists, medical radiation technologists, diagnostic medical sonographers and the rest of the medical imaging team who collectively place themselves in the most vulnerable positions to provide critical imaging services to patients in British Columbia. This is to protect not only these frontline health care professionals, but also the thousands of patients and caregivers who receive diagnostic imaging every day.

The medical imaging team is in direct and often prolonged contact with patients that come into the diagnostic imaging facility. This close physical contact is both unavoidable and necessary to deliver the required diagnostic imaging tests, biopsies and/or interventional procedures for the management of virtually every disease and condition affecting British Columbia patients. Direct patient contact is a core function of performing these procedures that includes preparing, positioning, and/or administering drugs, contrast agents or isotopes for every procedure performed.

Understanding that managing early access to the COVID vaccine needs to be rational and deliberate, given the high, almost certain contact that members of the medical imaging team have and will continue to have with COVID positive patients, prioritizing these health professionals into the first round of vaccinations is logical and necessary to help break the chain of future transmission.

This position is in concert with our endorsement of the Canadian Association of Radiologists' (CAR) Statement on Access to COVID-19 Vaccination for Medical Imaging Professionals.