



**ROYAL CANADIAN MARINE  
SEARCH & RESCUE**  
*Saving Lives on the Water*

6040 East Sooke Rd.  
Sooke, B.C. V9Z 0Z7  
T: 778.352.1780  
F: 778.352.1781  
(rcmsar.com)

## **Communications Bulletin RCMSAR Vaccine Requirements**

September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022

### Attn: Station Leaders and Membership

Good morning, In September 2021 RCMSAR implemented a mandatory vaccine policy to help ensure the safety and health of our volunteers. At that time, it was the right response. As a society however we have now moved towards a more stable situation regarding COVID 19 where the number of cases reported on a weekly basis are significantly less than just six months ago.

In looking forward I believe we all know that we are going to be dealing with COVID for the foreseeable future. So now is a good time to re-evaluate the RCMSAR vaccine policy. In doing so I have considered that 90% of those in BC have at least two doses of vaccine and many have one or two booster shots. We have all seen the recent changes to the Federal regulations including those governing the Canadian Coast Guard and the Department of National Defence which has allowed non-vaccinated personnel to return to their previous jobs.

I know that for some volunteers they would prefer that the vaccine policy stays in place however we must amend the policy based on the medical information that is available and what guidance/actions are being taken by society as a whole.

Therefore, I am suspending the requirement for volunteers to be vaccinated effective 6 September 2022. Effective that date, non-vaccinated volunteers will be allowed to participate in all RCMSAR activities for which they are qualified. This suspension of the vaccine policy will be re-visited should circumstances around COVID 19 change yet again.

As has been the case since the beginning of COVID 19, each volunteer must decide for themselves what is in their own personal best interest and comfort level. A revised COVID 19 bulletin and associated documents are attached.

Any questions please reach out. I ask that you ensure your station team is made aware of the suspension of the vaccine policy.

Stay Safe!

Bill

**Bill Riggs**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Office: 778-352-1786**  
**Cell: 250-888-4484**  
**6040 East Sooke Road**  
**Sooke, BC V9Z 0Z7**



**ROYAL CANADIAN MARINE  
SEARCH & RESCUE**  
*Saving Lives on the Water*