

Fellow Rotarians –

In November, in response to member concern, your Rotary Club Board took on the task of determining what to do about requiring that in-person Rotary Club of Bellingham meeting-goers be vaccinated. At the time, it was decided that we would not go as far as to establish a mandate, but meeting-goers were *highly encouraged* to be vaccinated.

Since then, we have received an overwhelming amount of feedback on this matter which has caused us to reconsider.

First and foremost, the health and safety of our Rotary community and the community we serve is our priority. As Rotarians, we should, as we have done throughout recent history, lead the charge when it comes to backing initiatives that serve the greater good. Vaccinations in themselves are a core part of one of Rotary's seven areas of focus: **Fighting Disease**. From Rotary International's website: "*We educate and equip communities to stop the spread of life-threatening diseases.*"

Regarding the fight against COVID itself, Rotary has contributed \$30 million to support community response efforts with one of their goals to building public trust in vaccines and lead the charge "*until every global citizen is safe from COVID-19.*" Full vaccination is a condition of employment within the Rotary organization and everyone must provide proof of vaccination prior to attending meetings at their world headquarters. With that charge at the *international* level, we should certainly be leaders in this fight at the *local* level.

On the one hand, this is not an easy decision to make since there are some Rotarians in our club who do not agree with a vaccine mandate and it is never our goal as a Club to alienate anyone. On the other hand, the Rotary guidelines regarding public health and vaccinations coupled with the application of the Four Way Test make this decision a very easy one indeed.

To that end, effective at our January 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, all live meeting attendees must be *fully vaccinated* against COVID-19 and follow the below parameters:

- Please send Sandee ([rcob@comcast.net](mailto:rcob@comcast.net)) a copy of your vaccination card or be prepared to show it at the door at your next Rotary meeting you attend live. You will only need to supply this once.
- Guests of Rotarians as well as guest speakers will be expected to show their vaccination card at the door.
- If you are not fully vaccinated, whether by choice or medical circumstances, we invite you to join us on Zoom.

If you would like to read more on Rotary International's position, click here:

<https://www.rotary.org/en/why-vaccinations-matter>

Some additional FAQs from Rotary:

<https://www.rotary.org/en/rotary-and-coronavirus-impact-frequently-asked-questions>

We will be following the CDC, state, and local Health Department regulations when it comes to defining "fully vaccinated".

Thank you for doing your part to keep our community healthy –

Your Rotary Board