

## COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE #2 FROM HALTON REGION PUBLIC HEALTH

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TO: Halton Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Emergency Departments

FROM: Dr. Joanna Oda, Associate Medical Officer of Health

DATE: December 21, 2020

RE: COVID-19 Vaccine Roll-Out in Halton, Update #2

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### QUICK FACTS

- A small amount of the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine is expected to arrive in Halton this week.
- Halton Healthcare will be holding clinics for eligible staff at prioritized Long Term Care Facilities the week of December 21, dependent on the arrival of vaccine.
- Halton Region Public Health has prioritized Long-Term Care Facilities based on outbreak status, facility size, and staffing ratios. These criteria may be adjusted as additional guidance is received from the province.
- Prioritized Long-Term Care Facilities have been notified that their staff are eligible for vaccine. This includes physicians and other health care practitioners who regularly and frequently attend those facilities.
- If you believe you are eligible, please reach out to the director of care of the facility for additional information.

### KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- Though Public Health highly encourages eligible persons to be immunized, COVID-19 vaccine is voluntary.
- Physicians play a key role in assisting patients make an informed decision. The resources below may assist with discussions with patients with concerns about the vaccine.
- Please report any Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFIs) associated with COVID-19 vaccine using the forms available at [Public Health Ontario's COVID-19 Vaccine website](#).

### KEY MESSAGES FOR PATIENTS

- Health Canada stringently reviewed the available data for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and found it safe and effective.
- Persons who have previously tested positive for COVID-19 can receive the vaccine provided they are no longer infectious and their symptoms have stabilized.
- Vaccinated individuals must still continue to practice public health measures, such as limiting travel; avoiding close contact to household members and avoiding social gatherings.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccine](#), National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI)
- [What you need to know about the COVID-19 vaccine for Canada](#), Government of Canada
- [COVID-19 vaccines for Ontario](#), Government of Ontario

Please report all suspected/confirmed cases of [Diseases of Public Health Significance](#) to Public Health immediately by calling 311, 905-825-6000 or toll free at 1-866-442-5866.

PLEASE POST IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS AND PHYSICIAN LOUNGES – IF YOU CAN'T ACCESS HYPERLINKS OR DIDN'T RECEIVE IN FULL, PLEASE EMAIL [DOCTORS@HALTON.CA](mailto:DOCTORS@HALTON.CA) FOR ELECTRONIC COPY.