

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE #5 FROM HALTON REGION PUBLIC HEALTH

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TO: Halton Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Emergency Departments, Midwives

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

DATE: January 13, 2021

RE: COVID-19 Vaccine Update 5: Immunizing Long Term Care Residents, Prioritization of Healthcare Workers

QUICK FACTS

- The Pfizer vaccine can now be safely moved and Public Health is working quickly to get vaccine to the residents of Long Term Care, beginning January 11.
- The Ministry of Health has developed [guidance](#) for COVID-19 vaccination recommendations for Special Populations (e.g. pregnancy, immunosuppression). Patients may be contacting you for discussion of the risks and benefits of vaccine.
- The Community for Effective Practice (CEP) has created [talking points](#) to help guide the COVID-19 vaccination discussion with your patients.

WHEN WILL PHYSICIANS & HEALTHCARE WORKERS RECEIVE THEIR COVID-19 VACCINATIONS?

- The province has provided [guidance on the prioritization of Healthcare Workers](#), however the supply of vaccine in Halton currently is very limited.
- Immunizing the vulnerable population in Long Term Care and retirement residences will mean a more limited supply for community physicians and other healthcare workers.
- To preserve supply for residents of Long Term Care, the Hospital clinic is currently not accepting new first dose appointments. Public Health continues to monitor the vaccine supply closely and expand eligibility as soon as possible.

DOES COVID-19 VACCINATION IMPACT HOW TO TREAT HIGH-RISK EXPOSURE TO COVID-19?

- No, at this time there is no difference in public health recommendations for high-risk exposures based on vaccination status. This guidance is expected to change as more evidence emerges on the effectiveness of vaccines over time.

SHOULD PEOPLE PREVIOUSLY DIAGNOSED WITH COVID-19 GET THE COVID-19 VACCINE?

- Because the duration of immunity following infection is unknown, NACI recommends that people in authorized age groups, without vaccine contraindications, who have had previously lab confirmed COVID infection, be offered vaccine.
- People should be in good health, with no symptoms of an acute illness, before vaccinating, as well as ensuring the individual is no longer considered infectious based on current criteria.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [COVID-19 Vaccination Recommendations for Special Populations](#), Ministry of Health
- [Recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccine](#), National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI)
- [COVID-19 vaccine relevant information and planning resources](#), Ministry of Health
- [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 FOR ELECTRONIC COPY.