

## COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE #9 FROM HALTON REGION PUBLIC HEALTH

TEL: 905-825-6000 • TOLL FREE: 1-866-442-5866 • FAX: 905-825-1444

TO: Halton Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Emergency Departments

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

DATE: February 20, 2021

RE: COVID-19 Vaccine Update 9: Healthcare Worker and public prioritization and COVAX<sub>ON</sub>

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### QUICK FACTS

- The Province has provided [updated guidance on the prioritization of Healthcare Workers for COVID-19 vaccination](#)
- Halton Region Public Health's current focus for COVID-19 vaccination is on:
  - Staff, residents and essential caregivers at LTC and retirement homes
  - Highest priority health care workers
- Planning is underway for the upcoming focus (dependant on vaccine supply) on:
  - People aged 80 and older
  - Very High Priority Healthcare Workers, age based criteria
- When Halton Region Public Health has vaccine to immunize the high priority populations in March, a large communications roll out (including this weekly update) will let people know how to book an appointment.
- Halton Healthcare Vaccination Centre at Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital has re-opened and is providing first doses of COVID-19 vaccine to staff and essential caregivers of LTCH, RH and congregate settings serving seniors – second doses will be booked at 35 days

### HEALTHCARE WORKER PRIORITIZATION

- Provincial Guidance classifies Healthcare Workers into four categories – highest, very high, high and moderate priority
- Highest priority includes:
  - Hospital and acute care staff that have contact with COVID-19 patients and/or high-risk of exposure to COVID-19
  - All patient-facing Healthcare Workers involved in the COVID-19 response
  - Medical first responders (paramedics, firefighters providing medical first response)
  - Community health workers serving specialized populations
- Very High priority includes:
  - Acute care and other hospital settings
  - Congregate settings (including hospices, palliative care and assisted living)
  - Community care with high risk of exposure and serving specialized patient populations (including Community Health Centers)
  - Other health care services for Indigenous populations
  - Community care with high risk of exposure and serving the general population (including birth centres, midwifery, nurse practitioner-led clinics, Otolaryngology (ENT), pharmacies, primary care, respirology and walk-in clinics)

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.

- Laboratory services
- Where a healthcare setting is named, ALL workers in that setting are included, including custodial, security and reception staff.

### **COVID-19 VACCINATION AND COVAX<sub>ON</sub>**

- COVAX<sub>ON</sub> is the online provincial system used to input the COVID-19 vaccine information for each individual and for tracking vaccine inventory. It is not integrated with electronic medical records (EMRs).
- As Phases 2 and 3 begin, with the arrival of more vaccine, the ministry will issue usernames and login credentials to primary care providers who will be administering the vaccine. The Ministry is also working to organize training webinars to align with COVAX<sub>ON</sub> on-boarding schedules.
- We will share more details as they become available.

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

- [COVID-19: Guidance for Prioritizing Healthcare Workers for COVID-19 Vaccination](#), Ministry of Health
- [COVID-19 Vaccination Toolkit for Healthcare Providers](#), Public Health Agency of Canada
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Questions and Answers for Healthcare Providers](#), CANVAX
- [Vaccine administration in Halton Region dashboard](#), Halton Region
- [COVID-19 Variant of Concern: Case, Contact and Outbreak Management Interim Guidance](#), Ministry of Health
- [COVID-19 Vaccines – Allergies and LDV Syringe Discussion](#) (webinar), Public Health Agency of Canada