

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE #1 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: December 15, 2020

RE: Update re rolling out COVID-19 vaccine

QUICK FACTS

- The phased Provincial roll-out of approved COVID-19 vaccines has now begun, with the first doses provided in Ottawa and Toronto.
- Halton Region Public Health is working closely with the Ministry of Health and will be releasing regular COVID-19 Vaccine Updates.
- Information about COVID-19 vaccines will evolve quickly. Below are a list of resources currently available for up-to-date information. Current information will also be posted in the COVID-19 section on [halton.ca/physicians](https://www.halton.ca/physicians).

KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- The Pfizer vaccine was approved for use in Canada on December 9, 2020. Due to its complex handling requirements, distribution will be limited. Other vaccine candidates have more typical handling requirements. It is expected that more vaccine will become available in winter and spring 2021.
- Though Public Health and all levels of government encourage eligible individuals to be vaccinated against COVID-19, vaccination will be voluntary. Physicians will play a key role in assisting their patients make an informed decision about vaccination.

KEY MESSAGES FOR PATIENTS

- All vaccines approved for use in Canada undergo a thorough and independent review and must meet stringent requirements. Only vaccines that are safe and effective are approved for use.
- At this time, Ontario is prioritizing vaccines for people who are most vulnerable to severe illness from COVID-19 or at increased risk of exposure.
- Continue to follow public health measures until vaccines are widely available. These measures include:
 - Staying home, except for essential purposes
 - Limiting close contact to those that live with you
 - Avoiding all social gatherings, including parties and holiday celebrations.

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 FOR ELECTRONIC COPY.