

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE #3 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 23, 2020

RE: COVID-19 Vaccine Roll-Out in Halton, Update #3

QUICK FACTS

- A small amount of the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine has arrived in Halton.
- The Pfizer vaccine cannot be moved from the facility it was received. At this time in Halton, vaccine is only being offered through clinics provided by Halton Healthcare at Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital.
- Halton Region Public Health has prioritized Long-Term Care Facilities and Retirement Homes based on outbreak status, facility size, and staffing ratios. At this time, facilities in outbreak will not be eligible until the outbreak is declared over.
- The Moderna vaccine was approved by Health Canada December 23. Details on its arrival in Halton have not yet been confirmed.
- Public Health expects family physicians and other community health care providers will play a larger role in distribution of the Moderna vaccine and the next set of vaccine candidates working their way through the approval process.
- Public Health is exploring options to engage family physicians and other community health care providers as part of the distribution process for the Moderna vaccine and will continue to update as more details become available.

KEY MESSAGES FOR HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

- Facilities in outbreak are not eligible at this time due to:
 - National Advisory Committee on Immunizations (NACI)'s recommendation not to vaccinate during acute COVID-19 infection;
 - The potential added staffing pressures due vaccine side effects which may mimic COVID-19;
 - The risk of infection at the Vaccine Clinic due to asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic spread.
- The Pfizer vaccine does not play a role in outbreak management at this time.
- The National Collaborating Centre for Infections Diseases (NCCID) is hosting a webinar on the Moderna vaccine for healthcare providers on December 30 at 11:30am ([registration link](#))
- Recordings of webinars on the Pfizer vaccine hosted by the NCCID are available [here](#).

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.