

## COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE #7 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: January 28, 2021

RE: COVID-19 vaccine roll out update

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### QUICK FACTS

- Halton Region Public Health has completed first dose resident vaccination clinics in long-term care homes and has begun first dose mobile clinics at high-risk retirement homes. Plans are currently underway to begin second dose clinics at long-term care homes.
- To protect access to second doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for those who have already received their first dose, residents of LTC/RH will receive their second dose at a maximum interval of 27 days; all others (including workers in LTC/RH) will have up to 42 days between the two doses.
- Pfizer vaccine shortages have caused Halton Healthcare to pause providing first-dose vaccines and staff are now supporting the Paramedic mobile vaccination clinics at high-risk retirement homes until a more stable vaccine supply is available.
- The Ministry has provided new [guidance](#) on immunization in long-term care and retirement homes:
  - Individuals with acute symptoms of COVID-19 should defer vaccination.
  - Residents in quarantine as a close contact can be immunized during a mobile clinic.
  - Residents who have tested positive for COVID-19 may be vaccinated, provided they have been afebrile for 24 hours and their symptoms are resolving.
- As second doses begin in long-term care and high-risk retirement homes, please note that systemic adverse events (e.g. fever, fatigue, muscle aches) are more common following the second dose. As some of these symptoms overlap with COVID-19 symptoms, the Ministry recommends that residents who develop such symptoms after immunization be isolated and tested for COVID-19.

### HOW PHYSICIANS CAN SUPPORT COVID-19 VACCINE ROLL-OUT

- While awaiting a more stable vaccine supply (likely late-February), primary care can support the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out by:
  - educating and advising patients about the vaccine, especially older adults that will be part of the Phase 2 roll out.
  - keeping informed and aware of key resources to help support your patient consults – [Centre for Effective Practice: COVID-19 vaccine resource](#).
  - reviewing vaccine clinic checklists and materials available for planning purposes:
    - [COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Operations Planning Checklist](#) (MOH)
  - Preparing to offer vaccine to patients/clients during Phase 3 of the rollout.
  - [Reporting any adverse events](#) following immunization by filling out the [Ontario AEFI Reporting Form](#) and sending it to Halton Region Public Health.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet](#), Halton Region Public Health
- [COVID-19 Vaccination Recommendations for Special Populations](#), Ministry of Health
- [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

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.