

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE #11 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: February 26, 2021

RE: COVID-19 Vaccine Update 11: COVID-19 vaccination open to 'Very High Priority' Healthcare Workers working in Halton Region who are 60 years old and over

QUICK FACTS

- Halton Region Public Health has opened up COVID-19 vaccination appointments for Healthcare Workers in the [Very High Priority group](#), who are 60 years of age and over. Please see attached notice and Frequently Asked Question documents.
- General Hillier announced updated timing for age-based public vaccination, contingent on vaccine supply, however Halton Region Public Health is hoping to launch clinics earlier dependent on vaccine and booking system availability. We hope to share more details in the coming week.
- [COVID-19 vaccine update from Halton Region's Medical Officer of Health and Chief Administrative Officer](#)
- There is a new webpage to provide updates on the COVID-19 vaccination program in Halton at halton.ca/COVIDvaccines which includes FAQs, current eligibility, clinic information and more. Work is also underway to create a Healthcare Provider COVID-19 vaccine webpage.

WHY ARE OTHER HEALTH UNITS ADMINISTERING VACCINE TO HEALTHCARE WORKERS?

- We know it can be frustrating when you hear that other Healthcare Providers are receiving vaccine or that other Public Health Units are using different criteria than Halton Region.
- Depending on the type and amount of vaccine different Regions have, this will impact the ability to immunize various groups. To date, vaccine has been reallocated to areas hardest hit with COVID-19.
- The Province has advised us that vaccine distribution will be increasingly population-based allocation.
- Our experience in Halton is that risk of severe disease (outside of long-term care and retirement homes) increases with age, and those at greatest risk are people over the age of 80. To ensure adequate vaccine supply for this most vulnerable group, we have chosen to initially limit vaccine to Healthcare Workers in the Very High Priority group to those over 60 years of age, who are also at greater risk of severe disease. We will increase eligibility as soon as we can based on vaccine supply.
- Many Health Units are currently 'registering' Healthcare Workers and will then be booking appointments based on priority eligibility once they receive vaccine supply.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- [Dr. Noni MacDonald COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy webinar presentation](#), Halton Region
- [Halton Region Public Health COVID-19 Vaccine update webinar presentation](#), Halton Region
- [COVID-19 vaccine in Halton Frequently Asked Questions](#), Halton Region
- [Patient resources for COVID-19 vaccination, including different languages](#), Halton Region
- [How primary care support COVID-19 vaccination program](#), Halton Region

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.