

COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force

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Groupe d'étude sur la distribution des vaccins contre la COVID-19

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RECEIVED
January 22, 2021

REGION OF PEEL
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January 22, 2021

It's been almost six weeks since Ontario launched the first phase of the three-phased implementation plan of Ontario's COVID-19 vaccine program. Since then over 264,000 doses have been administered across the province. This is an amazing achievement and a bright light during a week where we have received sobering news on how this virus has taken hold in the province.

I have had the opportunity over the past weeks to hold meetings with many of our partners in this mission, including municipal leaders, public health unit Medical Officers of Health, CEOs of hospitals who have received vaccines and long-term care home operators. These meetings have been a way to connect with the leaders on the ground and to hear what is working, what we can improve on, to ask questions and provide solutions. The discussions will inform how we continue with our rollout and are a way to ensure connections are strong across all sectors – we are all in this together.

The public health units and local hospitals have played an enormous role throughout the pandemic. Vaccine distribution will be no exception. Our province will not have a one-size fits all approach to the vaccine rollout. From cities, small towns, rural communities and remote/fly-in parts of the province, we are going to rely on local implementation. As the situation is evolving rapidly, I urge the mayors and municipalities across the province to work closely with your public health unit as they implement the vaccine rollout for your community.

The Premier gave us a mission – to have all residents, health care workers, staff and essential caregivers in long-term care homes and high-risk retirement homes in Peel, Toronto, York and Windsor-Essex vaccinated with their first dose by January 21, 2021. Thanks to the dedication of public health units, hospitals and long-term care and high-risk retirement homes, we have achieved this goal and more, with Ottawa, Durham and Simcoe Muskoka also completing their long-term care homes.

On January 19, 2021, we were alerted by the federal government that due to work to expand its European manufacturing facility, production of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine will be impacted for a few weeks. In fact, we will not receive any doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine next week. We will hear more in the coming days from the National Operations Centre about the vaccine that Ontario will receive.

Once we hear more from the National Operations Centre about Ontario's allocations, we will work closely with public health units and hospitals to plan and manage the new allocation amounts.

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED

9.5-1

This will not stop us from getting to our most vulnerable Ontarians. A good plan allows you to be prepared for the unexpected. We have been able to work quickly to adjust to this news. Vaccination of residents, staff and essential caregivers of all long-term care homes and high-risk retirement homes in Ontario will continue. Operation Remote Immunity, led by Ornge, includes the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine to 31 fly-in communities in Northern Ontario and continues to be a priority with an expected start date of February 1, 2021.

We have made incredible progress to date in our COVID-19 vaccine program, and we will continue to push forward. I look forward to our continued partnership.

Sincerely,

General (Ret'd) Rick Hillier
Chair of the COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force

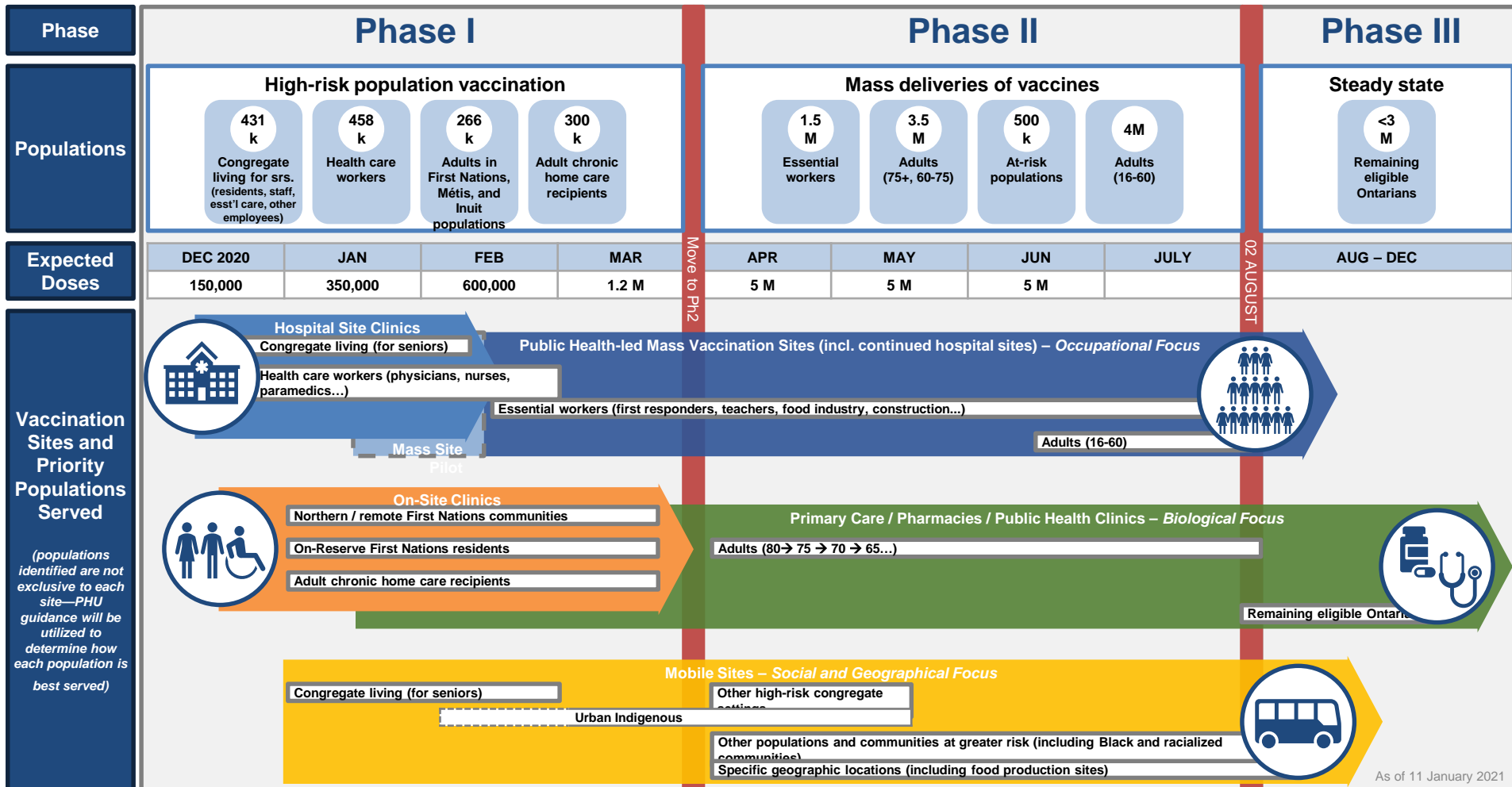
COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force Update #6

Vaccine Update

- Over **264,000** doses administered across the province
- Second dose, full immunization began January 5, 2021, with over 49,000 Ontarians fully immunized after receiving both doses (as of 8 p.m. January 21, 2021)
- We have administered the first round of vaccinations ahead of schedule in all long-term care homes in Toronto, Peel, York and Windsor-Essex, the four regions with the highest COVID-19 transmission rates, as well as Ottawa, Durham and Simcoe Muskoka.
- New appointment to the COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force:
 - Dr. Kieran Moore is the Medical Officer of Health and CEO of the Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health Unit. He is also a Professor of Emergency and Family Medicine at the Queen's University and has a Masters degree in Disaster Medicine as well as Public Health and a Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

COVID-19 VACCINE DISTRIBUTION PLAN

For deployment of Pfizer and Moderna vaccines



Vaccination Sites and Priority Populations Served

(populations identified are not exclusive to each site—PHU guidance will be utilized to determine how each population is best served)

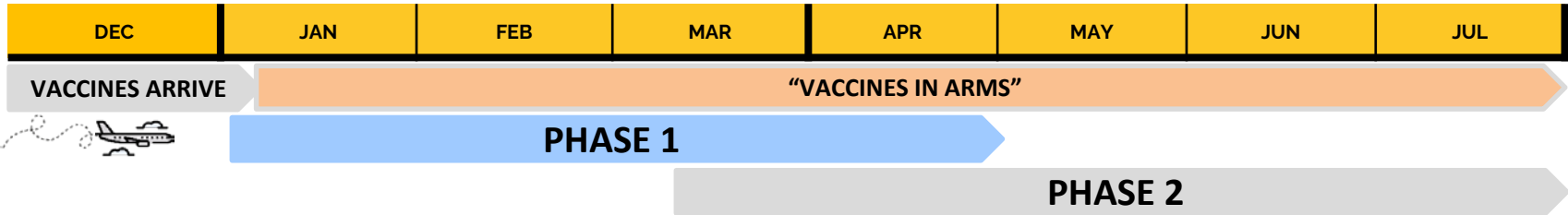
PHASED PRIORITIZATION OVERVIEW

Principles

- **Application of an equity lens:** The impact of risk factors may be different for racialized and marginalized populations – an equity lens has been applied to all prioritized groups.
- **Data-driven decision-making:** Where it is available, data should inform decision-making around prioritization – including prioritizing the groups that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 as early as possible.
- **Engagement:** Ontario is consulting with all affected groups to ensure prioritization decisions are well-informed and accepted – “nothing about us without us”.
- **Individual risk factors:** Age is the most impactful factor for determining individual risk of a severe outcome from COVID-19, but other factors of individual risk are also important for individuals to voluntarily self-identify.
- **Local decision-making:** Provincial direction on prioritization is balanced with public health unit decision-making based on the local context.
- **Building in adaptability:** Priorities may change as the situation in Ontario evolves and as more information about the vaccine and the impact of the pandemic becomes available.
- **Transparency:** Share the rationale behind prioritization and data used to ensure public understanding of how decisions were made about the vaccine.

VACCINE DISTRIBUTION: PHASED PRIORITIZATION

- Vaccination rollout phases will be continuous and overlapping – Phase 2 vaccinations likely to begin while Phase 1 is still ongoing (e.g., vaccination of adults >80 may begin in parallel or before low-risk health care worker vaccination).
- Vaccination schedules are intended to be flexible and responsive to ongoing needs, vaccine logistics and risk factors.
- Ontario is ready to receive vaccines whenever they are available, and will shift to Phase 2 priority populations as soon as there are sufficient vaccines provided by the Federal government.



	FIRST VACCINES ARRIVE	PHASE 1	PHASE 2
People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff and essential caregivers in LTCHs and high-risk Retirement Homes (RH). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents, staff, essential caregivers, and other employees of congregate living settings that provide care for seniors. • Health care workers. • Adults in First Nations, Metis and Inuit populations. • Adult chronic home care recipients. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older adults, beginning with those ≥80 years old and decreasing in 5-year increments over the course of vaccine roll-out. • Those living and working in other high-risk congregate settings. • Essential Workers, beginning with front-line essential workers. • Individuals with high-risk chronic conditions, and their caregivers. • Other populations and communities facing barriers related to the determinants of health across Ontario who are at greater COVID-19 risk (e.g., Black and other racialized populations).
Places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Initial locations • Ramp up to 19 locations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialized vaccination centres (LTCH/RH) • Mobile vaccination sites • Mass vaccination sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mass vaccination sites • Hospitals • Mobile vaccination sites • Pharmacies • Clinics • Primary care • Strategic in-community locations (CHC/AHAC)