

COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force

General (Ret'd) Rick Hillier
Chair

25 Grosvenor Street
11th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1Y6

COVID-19VaccineTaskForce@ontario.ca

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

Général (à la retraite) Rick Hillier
Président

25, rue Grosvenor
11^e étage
Toronto ON M7A 1Y6

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RECEIVED

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REGION OF PEEL

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

February 5, 2021

We have entered the month of February in a different set of circumstances than we anticipated being in only a few weeks ago. As you know, ongoing vaccine shipment delays and reduced shipments have forced us to pivot from the plan we had made for larger shipments of vaccines. However, a pivot does not mean that we have changed our goals. Quite the opposite – it has given us the opportunity to prove that we can re-focus our efforts when needed, while continuing to work on logistics and plans to be ready when the vaccines do arrive.

To support this, we have been holding Knowledge Sharing Sessions (KSS) with public health units. These sessions are meant to provide an opportunity for public health units to showcase their integrated delivery plans and strengthen mutual understanding by sharing best practices and findings and by identifying and discussing where provincial supports and resources may be needed.

Due to the delay in vaccine shipments, we updated our goal of completing the administration of first doses of COVID-19 vaccines to residents in each long-term care, high-risk retirement and First Nations elder care homes from February 5 to February 10. However, at the time of this memo, we have been able to offer first doses to residents in over 80% of the homes. The moment the vaccines are delivered this week, teams in public health units will move immediately to get them into the remaining homes.

We are also excited to report that vaccination teams will be distributing vaccines in 31 First Nations fly-in communities in the north as part of Operation Remote Immunity. In fact, 1,551 total doses were administered during the soft launch of this operation, between January 8 and January 29, 2021. When Operation Remote Immunity was officially launched this week, 1,363 doses were administered between February 1 and 3, 2021. This first step begins our journey towards protection for remote First Nations communities.

The continued collaboration between municipal, community, and health system partners and the determination to achieve our common goals has steered us through these past few weeks and remains the key to our success.

Sincerely,

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

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED ☒

COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force Update #7

Vaccine Update

- Over **355,000** doses administered across the province
- Second dose, full immunization began January 5, 2021, with over **80,977** Ontarians fully immunized after receiving both doses (as of 8 p.m. February 3, 2021)
- Operation Remote Immunity officially started on February 1, 2021 in six fly-in First Nation communities in northern Ontario. As of February 3, 2021, a total of 2,914 doses have been administered through Operation Remote Immunity which includes communities that were part of the soft launch in January.

Long-Term Care Homes Update:

- Residents, staff, essential caregivers (including family caregivers) and other employees in congregate living settings for seniors were identified as an initial priority due to age, clinical risk/vulnerability and risk associated with living in a congregate setting.
- Specific public health unit areas were identified and prioritized based on highest risk categorization including rates of disease transmission in the community.
- Over 80% of residents have received the 1st dose of the vaccine in more than 80% of all LTC homes.
- 20 of 34 PHUs are showing 100% of LTC complete.
- All LTC home residents will receive a first dose vaccine offer by February 10.

Update on Data, IT & Reporting Progress and Issues

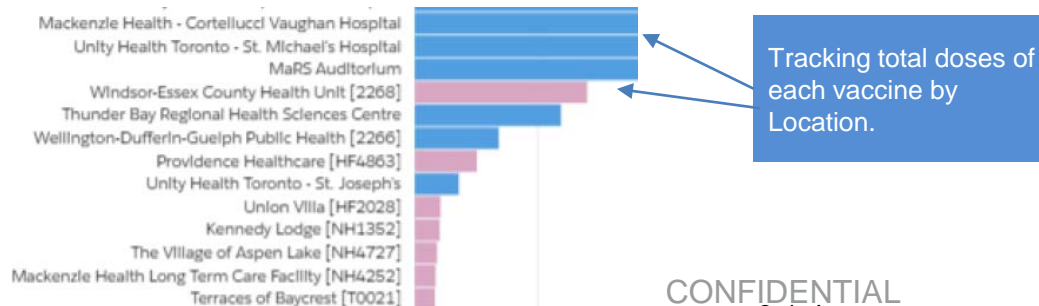
Tracking Vaccination Progress



Regular reporting tracks progress

A regular dashboard tracks progress on key indicators such as number of shots and demographics.

Tracking 1st and 2nd doses of each vaccine type.



Tracking total doses of each vaccine by Location.

Pfizer and Moderna Update

- On January 19th, the province was notified by the federal government of further reductions in Pfizer-BioNTech allocations, resulting in:
 - no allocations in the week of January 25th
 - 26,325 doses in the week of February 1st (reduction of approx. 82%)
 - 27,300 doses in the week of February 8 (reduction of approx. 81%)
 - 130,650 doses in the week of February 15 (reduction of approx. 8%)
 - 155,025 doses in the week of February 22 (increase of approx. 9%)
- No allocations have been provided beyond the week of February 22nd.
- On January 29th the province was advised by the Federal Government that the allocation of Moderna for the week of February 1st will be decreased by 18,200 doses (approx. 22% decrease).
 - Ontario is expecting to receive 63,400 doses of Moderna by February 7th.
- Despite these challenges in supply, the province and vaccination sites have worked together to accelerate the vaccination of long-term care, high-risk retirement and First Nations elder care home residents and continue to administer second doses based on availability of supply provided by the federal government. As a result of recent delays in shipments, the province has updated its goal of visiting these settings to administer first doses by February 10th.
- The province is expecting approximately 310,000 doses to be delivered in the remaining weeks of February. Once sufficient doses are available, vaccinations will resume to provide first doses for staff and essential caregivers in the settings for the most vulnerable populations.

Operation Remote Immunity Update

(31 northern fly-in communities and Moosonee)

- Operation Remote Immunity is a collaborative effort between Ornge, the Ministries of Health, Indigenous Affairs (IAO), Solicitor General and Natural Resources and Forestry, federal government partners as well as with the Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN).
- Ornge is leading the administration of the vaccine to 31 fly-in First Nation communities and Moosonee in Ontario. As part of the rollout, the vaccine will be available to community members 18 years of age or older.
- Recognizing the critical importance of engaging Indigenous leadership in how vaccines are offered to their communities, the plan was co-developed in partnership with NAN.
- Vaccination teams under the direction of Ornge will be represented by a number of organizations, including the Weeneebayko Area Health Authority (WAHA), the Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority (SLFNHA), the First Nations Inuit Health Branch, the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, Queen's University, the University of Toronto, northern Paramedic Services, and the Porcupine Health Unit, among others. Team members have received the full COVID-19 vaccine and have undergone cultural training prior to this operation.
- Weenusk (Peawanuck) First Nation was the first to host a vaccination team and clinic on January 26. During the week of February 1, 2021, teams administered the vaccine to six additional communities, Neskantaga, Slate Falls, Muskrat Dam, Fort Severn, Kashechewan and Webequie. A total of 1,363 doses were administered from February 1 to 3, 2021.
- As part of a soft launch in January, Ornge delivered vaccines to SLFNHA, WAHA and Weenusk First Nation where 1,551 doses have been administered with a focus on hospital and long-term care/chronic care staff and residents.
- Operation Remote Immunity aims to complete its work by April 30, 2021.

Public & stakeholder communications

- Premier-led announcements to address emerging issues affecting Ontario's vaccine program directly or indirectly including vaccine supply from manufacturers and COVID-19 variants of concern.
- Technical briefings, memos to stakeholders, daily fact sheets, and meeting with hospital and public health units to articulate direction confirm the commitment to be transparent.

Targeted public/sector education efforts

Long-Term Care:

- Social media marketing push with video (in approval) for LTC workers to combat misinformation and clarify that the vaccine is safe and effective. Selected professions will be targeted on Facebook and Instagram.
- Townhall by the General and LTC sector, Minister's letter to sector– translated into several languages
- CMOH/DM letter with information deck and fact sheet.
- Fact sheet distributed to the sector, translated into several languages, Sector FAQs are in approvals.
- Outreach strategy to faith/community leaders to identify vaccine champions among LTC workers, including a toolkit for the champions.

Indigenous Affairs:

- Hosted the third weekly Indigenous Vaccine Communications working group meeting and introduced the new online resource hub.
- Indigenous Services Canada communications reps have now joined Ontario's meeting, consolidating several meetings to one.
- Continued sharing partner social posts highlighting vaccination rollout underway in fly-in communities.
- Collaborating with Ornge and MOH on the launch of Operation Remote Immunity, which aims to complete its work by April 30, 2021.

Anti-Racism Directorate

- At-risk subgroup met this Monday where early thinking on the communications approach to support at-risk communities was presented.
- Exploring opportunity to create a digital resource (i.e. a web page) where resources can be collected, curated and accessed by community groups and leaders.

Marketing

- "Text Message" creative in market since mid-January alongside the existing "Stop the Spread" Campaign.
- Starting Feb. 1: new campaign began rolling out focusing on the action and potential outcome of disregarding public health advice. It asks Ontarians to continue following public health advice and measures until it is their time to get the vaccine.
- New "stay at home" creative will blanket social, digital, out-of-home, radio and print across the province.
- The campaign also has a large multicultural media buy and will be available in Indigenous languages as well.
- Goal is to transition to a more vaccine-focused marketing message in mid-to-late March.

Next Steps

- Ministry of Health continues working with vaccination sites to **accelerate the vaccination of long-term care, high-risk retirement, and First Nations elder care residents** across Ontario.
- We are **working with partners** to plan next steps for when additional vaccine supply is restored to the province:
 - Remaining staff and essential caregivers in long-term care, high-risk retirement and First Nations elder care homes
 - Retirement homes and other congregate care for seniors (e.g., number of residents, staff, etc.)
 - Health care workers
 - First Nation, Inuit, and Métis populations
 - Adults in chronic home care
- Ontario **continues to be ready** to administer doses – and expand the number of locations administering – as soon as we receive them from the federal government. The province has capacity to vaccinate nearly 40,000 people per day and is building capacity to triple or quadruple that capacity pending federal government supply, including municipally-run vaccination clinics.