

Ministry of Health

Ministère de la Santé

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February 10, 2021

REGION OF PEEL
OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

361-2021-742

February 10, 2021

Mr. Nando Iannicca
Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer
Region of Peel
Her Worship Bonnie Crombie
Mayor of Mississauga
His Worship Patrick Brown
Mayor of Brampton
His Worship Allan Thompson
Mayor of Caledon

REFERRAL TO _____
RECOMMENDED _____
DIRECTION REQUIRED _____
RECEIPT RECOMMENDED ☒

Dear Mr. Iannicca and Colleagues:

Premier Ford shared with me a copy of your letter regarding the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines in the Region of Peel. I am pleased to respond on behalf of Premier Doug Ford.

Ontario has the ability to administer more vaccines than it has supply, with plans to continue ramping up capacity in the coming weeks and months. As the province receives more vaccine doses from the federal government, we will continue to expand locations across the province to vaccinate our most vulnerable, and over time, every Ontarian who wishes to be immunized.

As you know, Peel Public Health was one of four regions selected to receive the first vaccines with the goal of vaccinating all long-term care homes in these regions by January 21st. These regions were prioritized as at the time they were the regions with the highest transmission rates of COVID-19. I understand that as of January 19, 2021, the Region of Peel successfully completed the first round of vaccinations in all long-term care homes ahead of schedule. This is just one of the many milestones our province will achieve as we move closer to the light at the end of the tunnel and out of this period in our province's history.

Despite this promising milestone, I also understand the concerning trends in Peel Region, and since the start of Ontario's vaccine distribution plan, we have allocated Pfizer vaccines to the region accordingly. However, on January 15, 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. As a result, Pfizer will temporarily

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reduce deliveries from its European facility to all countries receiving its vaccine, including Canada, and the federal government has informed us that the province's allocations will be significantly impacted in the coming weeks. On January 19 and January 28, 2021, the federal government notified the province of further reductions in Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine shipments for February and March, which resulted in no deliveries for the week of January 25, 2021, and a reduced shipment of just over 26,000 doses for the first week of February.

As our government announced on February 2, 2021, the federal government also confirmed that in addition to further reductions to Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine shipments, Ontario's allocation of the Moderna vaccine will be significantly reduced by 18,200 doses, to 63,400 doses. With the reduced shipment anticipated to be received late in the first week of February, doses will be delivered to public health units across Ontario to ensure residents of these homes are offered their first dose by February 10, 2021.

In response to the significant reduction in allocations by the federal government as well as significant uncertainty regarding future shipments, the province and vaccination sites have worked together to develop a plan to accelerate vaccination of the province's most vulnerable and continue to administer second doses based on availability of supply provided by the federal government. The province's initial approach was to offer vaccination to all residents, staff and essential caregivers working at long-term care and high-risk retirement homes to provide the opportunity for best overall protection. In response to the latest reduction in vaccine supply from the federal government, the province prioritized the vaccination of residents of long-term care, high-risk retirement and First Nations elder care homes. In addition to prioritizing the vaccination of First Nations elder care home residents, Ontario continues to implement its vaccination plan for northern, remote First Nations communities. Once sufficient doses are available, vaccinations will resume to provide first doses for staff and essential caregivers in settings with the most vulnerable populations.

As we receive more vaccine supplies from the federal government, we will be able to increase allocations to all sites, including Peel, proportionate to their population. We continue to be ready to administer the vaccines as soon as we receive them.

Thank you for writing on this important matter and for joining our shared commitment to work together to protect the health and wellbeing of Ontarians.

Sincerely,



Christine Elliott
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health

c: The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario