## COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force

General (Ret'd) Rick Hillier Chair

25 Grosvenor Street 11<sup>th</sup> 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 11e étage Toronto ON M7A 1Y6

COVID-19VaccineTaskForce@ontario.ca



#### **RECEIVED**

February 22, 2021

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I am happy to advise that we have hit another milestone in Ontario's COVID-19 vaccination efforts – over 500,000 doses of vaccines have been administered. That is over half a million doses in the arms of Ontarians, something that could not have been imagined even six months ago.

This achievement would have been impossible without the hard work of the public health units; hospital and health sector partners; municipalities and First Nations, Metis, and Inuit leadership. I am extremely proud of the dedication of all those involved, especially as this work was done on top of the response to the pandemic and day-to-day work every person has continued to do throughout the past year.

We continue to move forward in vaccinating our most vulnerable. Given the expected gradual increase in Ontario's vaccine supply, the next target groups within the Phase One priority populations have been identified for vaccination. This information was provided to Medical Officers of Health and Hospital CEOs so they can begin operationalizing. More detailed information can be found in the accompanying slide deck.

Our team is preparing for the expansion of vaccine delivery into Phase Two by developing booking systems and supports to best serve the public. More details will follow in the coming weeks, but I look forward to this next step in creating access to vaccines for all those who want one.

Thank you again for your continued support and leadership in our efforts.

Sincerely,

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

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**COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force Update #8** 



# **Vaccine Update**

- Over 518,900 doses administered across the province
- Second dose, full immunization began January 5, 2021, with over **430,000** Ontarians fully immunized after receiving both doses (as of 8 p.m. February 18, 2021)
- Operation Remote Immunity continues to vaccinate 31 remote/fly-in First Nation communities and Moosonee in northern Ontario. As of February 17, 2021, a total of 8,000 doses have been administered.
  - In addition, the Province is also in the process of administering vaccination within Elders' congregate living facilities in 28 First Nation communities.
- All residents at long-term care homes across the province have been given an opportunity for their first does of COVID-19 vaccine.
- Ontario is expecting to receive the specific type of syringe that will enable vaccinators to reliably obtain six doses from each vial starting this week, from the federal government.
- We have the capacity to vaccinate nearly 40,000 people per day, and we are building to triple or quadruple that capacity to reach all Ontarians as quickly as possible.
- Public health units have developed plans to operate mass immunization clinics as soon as enough supply becomes available. They continue to offer mobile clinics to vaccinate our most vulnerable and will expand to staff and essential caregivers in long-term care, high risk retirement and First Nations Elder care homes.



# **Prioritization Update**

Immediate priority for first-dose vaccination include:

- Staff and essential caregivers in long-term care homes, high-risk retirement homes and First Nations elder care homes, and any residents of these settings that have not yet received a first dose of vaccine.
- Alternative level of care patients in hospitals who have a confirmed admission to a longterm care home, retirement home or other congregate care home for seniors.
- Highest Priority health care workers, followed by Very High Priority health care workers, in accordance with the Ministry of Health's guidance on Health Care Worker Prioritization.
- Indigenous adults in northern remote and higher risk communities (on-reserve and urban).

### Next priority for first-dose vaccination:

- When all reasonable steps have been taken to complete first-dose vaccinations of all staff, essential caregivers and residents of long-term care homes, high-risk retirement homes and First Nations elder care homes, first-dose vaccinations may be made available to the remainder of the Phase 1 populations:
  - Adults 80 years of age and older.
  - Staff, residents and caregivers in retirement homes and other congregate care settings for seniors (e.g., assisted living).
  - Health care workers in the High Priority level, and in accordance with the Ministry of Health's guidance on Health Care Worker Prioritization.
  - All Indigenous adults.
  - Adult recipients of chronic home care.

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan**

For deployment of Pfizer and Moderna vaccines

