

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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December 31, 2020
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December 31, 2020

It is hard to believe that this will be my final report of 2020. It has been a year like we have never seen. Ontarians have experienced great loss this year. When we look back at 2020, we will remember the family members and friends that succumbed to this terrible virus. We will also remember and thank all the health-care workers, essential front-line workers, the people who stock our grocery shelves, deliver food, drive transit and help Ontario continue to move forward each day.

On December 23, 2020, Health Canada approved the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Ontario received approximately 53,000 doses of Moderna this week with a second shipment expected in the middle of January. The Moderna vaccine does not need to be stored at extremely cold temperatures and can be transferred more easily. This means it can be taken directly to priority groups in long-term care homes, retirement homes, other congregate care settings, rural and remote locations, and other places where the most vulnerable and less mobile residents live.

Guided by our [ethical framework](#) and the best available data, the Task Force will continue to prioritize the most vulnerable populations first, who have higher risk of negative health outcomes from contracting the virus and are at a higher risk of spreading the virus. Groups receiving the early vaccine doses in the first few months of the Ontario immunization program will include:

- Residents, staff, essential caregivers, and other employees of congregate living settings that provide care for seniors;
- Health care workers, including hospital employees, staff who work or study in hospitals and other health care personnel;
- Adults in First Nations, Metis, and Inuit populations, beginning with remote/fly-in communities; and
- Adult recipients of chronic home health care.

Further priority populations will be identified within this phase based on available vaccine supply and informed by the ethical framework which was publicly released on December 30, 2020. Over time, the vaccine supply will increase to the point that all Ontarians who wish to be immunized, will be able to.

I wish everyone a healthy and safe New Year.

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 #4

Vaccine Update

Phased Distribution Plan

December 31, 2020

- On December 23, 2020 Health Canada approved the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.
 - ~**53,000** doses of the Moderna vaccine were delivered on Dec 30th and will be administered to residents in long term care homes and high-risk retirement homes beginning with those in the grey and red zones.
 - Over **24,000** doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered to date.
- **Ethical Framework:**
 - The ethical framework was developed to guide decision-making and to ensure an ethical and effective distribution of vaccines in Ontario.
 - Supports the identification and sequencing of priority populations as well as other distribution considerations.
 - The framework is grounded in a core set of principles to guide COVID-19 vaccine distribution. Including:
 - Minimize harms and maximize benefits
 - Equity
 - Fairness
 - Transparency
 - Legitimacy
 - Public trust is enhanced by ensuring decisions and decision-making processes are informed by these principles to advance confidence and trust in Ontario's COVID-19 immunization program
 - The framework was developed by the prioritization subgroup – co-chaired by Dr. Maxwell Smith and Dr. Dirk Huyer and with representation from clinical leaders and bioethicists from across the province.

Key Successes

- Significant progress has been made on the plan for vaccinating those residing in remote/fly-in Northern communities, including the identification of health care personnel who will be administering the vaccine. The roll-out to these communities is targeted to begin in early January with Ornge undertaking the operational lead.
- This week, a total of 19 hospital sites continued to vaccinate workers and essential caregivers from long-term care and high-risk retirement homes, as well as high-risk hospital workers, with volumes increasing over the course of the week.
- Building on lessons learned from the Pfizer Vaccine rollout, the ministry has collaborated with key health sector partners to prepare for administering the Moderna vaccine to residents in long-term care homes and high-risk retirement homes.

For more information on COVID-19 vaccines for Ontario, please click [here](#).