

COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force

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Update #10**

March 26, 2021

Vaccine Update

- Over **1,838,000** doses administered across the province.
- As of March 23, 2021, Operation Remote Immunity has administered **21,418** doses, including **14,094** first doses and **7,324** second doses.
- Teams have completed clinics offering the first dose of the vaccine to all 31 fly-in First Nation communities and Moosonee and 22 of these communities have completed clinics offering both the first and second dose. Operation Remote Immunity is scheduled to be completed by mid-April.

Pharmacy Roll-out

- Ontario received 194,500 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine with an expiration date of April 2. This first allocation of AstraZeneca vaccine is available through retail pharmacies (165,000 doses) and primary care settings (29,500 doses). Pharmacies received 500 doses per individual pharmacy to complete by the end of March.
- 327 pharmacies in 3 regions (Toronto, Windsor-Essex, and Kingston). The province continues to expand the delivery channels, with approximately 350 pharmacies to be brought on board across the province in the next two weeks and up to 1,500 by the end of April.
- Pharmacies participating in the pilot program were required to be part of the 2020-2021 Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP), have capacity and readiness for vaccinations and provide opportunity for both chain and independent pharmacy participation.
- On March 16, 2021, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) expanded its recommendation for the use of the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine to people 18 years old and older. In alignment with NACI's latest recommendation and Ontario's Ethical Framework, as of March 22, participating pharmacies and primary care settings will offer vaccination appointments to individuals turning 60 and older in 2021.

Primary Care Update

- Total allocation to public health units (PHUs) to leverage primary care channel (29,500 doses).
- 6 PHUs have been confirmed and received initial AstraZeneca allocation on March 10th for primary care settings.
 - Hamilton PH
 - Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph PHU
 - Peterborough PHU
 - Simcoe Muskoka and District PHU
 - Peel PH
 - Toronto PH
- PHUs were selected based on need, infection rates and solid partnerships with primary care.
- PHUs will be distributing 15% of the initial AstraZeneca doses to specific doctors' offices during initial phase and primary care providers expected to administer. Go-live was Saturday, March 13.
- Participating primary care providers started contacting their eligible patients directly to book an appointment starting March 10.
- As of March 22, they will be offering vaccination appointments to eligible individuals aged 60 and older.

Mass Immunization Clinics

- Ontario is working with all 34 public health units to plan and implement mass immunization clinics across the province.
- Several mass immunization clinics have begun operating and will continue to open this month, with further ramp up in April.
- Based on plans submitted by the public health units, there is capacity to operate over 336 vaccination sites (hospital, mass immunization clinic, mobile clinic, etc.) by the end of March:
 - Over 183 mass clinics planned to start operations in March (vaccine supply dependent)
 - Maximum feasible planned capacity across all public health units is approximately four million doses for the month of March (depending on supply).
- Rate of vaccine administration will vary based on local considerations and capacity.

Provincial Booking System

- The provincial booking system was launched on Monday, March 15 for individuals who will be turning 80 or older in 2021. Effective March 22, individuals **turning 75 or older in 2021** are eligible to book their appointment at mass immunization clinics.
- We have seen great success since the launch of the provincial online booking system, with more than 583,506 appointments for first and second doses booked by 12 p.m. on March 26. The 2,200 call centre agents supporting the Provincial lines and assisting Ontarians have kept wait times as low as 10 seconds for over 24 hours.
- On March 23, visitors experienced **no wait time** in accessing the booking system.