

March 16, 2021

To the people who live, work, and obtain their health care in the District of Muskoka:

The Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit (SMDHU) is committed to provide vaccination to all who are eligible, working with our communities and partners, beginning with those who need it most, as quickly as we can with the supply we receive. I am aware of concerns raised regarding access to COVID-19 vaccination in the District of Muskoka, and a desire for vaccination clinics to be established in addition to the two present locations in Huntsville and Bracebridge. These clinic locations were chosen with careful consideration by a regional planning table of representatives from the area municipalities within the District of Muskoka, as well as representation from both the Cottage Country Family Health Team and Algonquin Family Health Teams, the Muskoka Algonquin Health Care, and from the Muskoka and Area Ontario Health Team.

Over time there will be additional opportunities for people to be vaccinated throughout the District of Muskoka. Pop-up clinics will occur as the vaccine program continues through the coming weeks and months. Communities that have been identified for immunization outreach in Muskoka by the regional planning table include those located in the Townships of Lake of Bays, Georgian Bay, and Muskoka Lakes as well as Gravenhurst.

Mobile clinics also continue to provide immunization to those in community facility settings who need it most and are unable to attend the fixed location clinics as well as other priority populations benefitting from outreach. In addition, we are looking into the potential to provide vaccination in the future through at least some primary care practices; in such instances primary care offices would contact eligible patients for vaccination, and so we do ask that people not contact their family medicine practitioner on this.

We appreciate that having to travel to another community for a vaccination can be difficult, and so the [District of Muskoka](#) has partnered with Hammond Transportation Ltd (please call 705-645-2583 to book your trip) to transport eligible individuals to the vaccination clinics located in Bracebridge and Huntsville. This is an on-demand, curb-to-curb service that any district resident with a vaccine appointment can use, free of charge.

We will continue to communicate regularly on immunization as our campaign unfolds, reaching out to those in the priority groups regarding these opportunities for vaccination.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL Signed By:

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Medical Officer of Health

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