

COVID-19 Vaccine: Update #4

Attention: Physicians, Emergency Departments, Infection Control Practitioners, Occupational Health Practitioners, Walk-In Clinics/Urgent Care Clinics, Nurse Practitioners, EMS, Designated Officers, Midwives, Family Health Teams, Pharmacies, Central LHIN, NSM LHIN, Beausoleil First Nation, Moose Deer Point First Nation, Rama First Nation, Wahta First Nation, Long-term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, Hospices

Date: January 20, 2021

Barrie COVID-19 Immunization Clinic & Mobile Clinic Update

As of January 16, we have successfully administered 12,885 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to priority groups in Simcoe Muskoka. This includes 2,868 residents of all long-term care homes (LTCH) through our mobile clinics, and 4,459 staff and essential caregivers of LTCH and retirement homes (Rhome) at the Barrie COVID-19 Immunization Clinic.

Vaccine Supply Update – Pfizer-BioNTech Vaccine

Due to the unexpected global interruption in delivery of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, the immunization plan for Simcoe Muskoka must be revised.

To preserve our current supply and ensure we can protect our most vulnerable, high-risk populations, beginning Thursday, January 21, 2021:

- First dose vaccines, at the Immunization Clinic on Sperling Drive in Barrie, and through the Mobile Immunization Team, will be temporarily paused. Therefore, the clinic will be temporarily closed effective Jan 21st, and will not re-open for any scheduled appointments until supply increases and is stabilized.
- Second vaccine doses, for those health care workers (HCW) who received their first dose of the vaccine *after* December 30th, 2020, will be delayed up to 42 days.
- LTCH residents and Rhome residents who have received their first dose, will receive their second dose 21 to 27 days after their first dose.

We apologize for any inconvenience; however, supply limitations are out of our control. Canada's expected delivery of the vaccine will be significantly reduced over the next several weeks as Pfizer-BioNTech makes upgrades to its European manufacturing facility. In fact, Canada won't receive *any* Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine next week. Future vaccine allotment will be confirmed by the provincial government.

Impact on Long-Term Care Homes

At this time, we are planning to continue to provide dose #2 to all LTCH residents who received dose #1 when we visited the LTCHs last week at the 21 to 27 day mark.



Any LTCH staff or essential caregivers who received their first dose at the COVID-19 Immunization Clinic on Sperling Drive in Barrie, and are scheduled to receive their second dose will receive notification of a new appointment date which will be ~34 days from when they received their first dose.

Any LTCH staff, essential caregivers or other HCW who received their first dose from the Health Unit Mobile Immunization Team at a LTCH last week, will be contacted by the COVID-19 Immunization Clinic at 29 Sperling Drive in Barrie to provide them with an appointment for their second dose at ~34 days from when they received their first dose.

Any LTCH staff or essential caregivers who have not yet been immunized will have the start of their series postponed to a time when more vaccine becomes available in mid-late February.

Impact on Retirement Homes

At this time, we are planning to continue to provide dose #2 to all Rhome residents who received dose #1 at their home on Monday January 18 or Tuesday January 19, at the 21-27 day mark.

Any remaining Rhomes that were scheduled for the remainder of this week and into next week, will have their clinic dates rescheduled later in February once we have confirmation of vaccine supply.

Any Rhome staff or essential caregivers who received their first dose at the COVID-19 Immunization Clinic at 29 Sperling Drive in Barrie, and are scheduled to receive their second dose will receive notification of a new appointment date which will be ~34 days from when they received their first dose.

Any Rhome staff, essential caregivers or other HCW who received their first dose from the Health Unit Mobile Immunization Team at a Rhome on Monday January 18 or Tuesday January 19, will be contacted by the COVID-19 Immunization Clinic at 29 Sperling Drive in Barrie to provide them with an appointment for their second dose at ~34 days from when they received their first dose.

Any Rhome staff or essential caregivers who have not yet been immunized, will have the start of their series postponed to a time when more vaccine becomes available in mid-late February.

Timing of Dose #2 of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Second dose up to 42 days after first dose

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) addresses the question of delaying the second dose of vaccine in their updated *Recommendations on the use of COVID-19 Vaccines*. Within the limitations of currently available data, NACI advises that while the second dose should be given according to the approved schedule if possible, jurisdictions may consider delaying the second dose due to logistic or epidemiologic reasons until further supplies of the vaccine become available, preferably within 42 days (6 weeks) of the first dose. In their expert view, this interval increase is expected to yield similarly high protection seen with second dose administration at 21 or 28 days after the first dose. This is consistent with recommendations released on January 8, 2021 by the World Health Organization that provides flexibility to extend the dose interval up to 42 days in circumstances of vaccine supply constraint and high disease burden. Canada's Chief Medical Officers of Health and the Ontario Ministry of Health support NACI's recommendations.

NACI states: "Currently, no data on a maximum interval between doses or on medium- or long-term efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines are available. However, efficacy analyses in the Pfizer-BioNTech clinical trial included participants that received their second dose 19-42 days after their first dose, and the majority of participants in the Moderna clinical trial received their second dose between 21 to 42 days after the first. As a general vaccination principle, interruption of a vaccine series resulting in a greater than recommended interval between doses does not require restarting the series. Principles of immunology, vaccine science,

and historical examples demonstrate that delays between doses do not result in a reduction in final antibody concentrations nor a reduction in durability of memory response for most multi-dose products. However, the follow-up time in COVID-19 vaccine clinical trials is short and it is currently unknown whether maximum protection will be attained until the complete vaccine series has been administered, and the duration of protection after the first dose is not known as most individuals in the trials received a second dose.”

Planning for the Next Phase of COVID-19 Vaccination in Simcoe & Muskoka

Planning for the vaccination for HCW outside of hospitals, LTCH, and Rhomes and the rest of the population continues using the Ontario COVID-19 Vaccination Plan and the Ontario ethical framework for COVID-19 vaccine distribution.

HCW outside of hospitals, LTCH, and Rhomes are part of the next group of persons prioritized for vaccination, but given the predicted decreased supply in the next 4 weeks and the priority to immunize Rhomes, vaccination will not be readily available for all such HCW. As such, we are currently using the provincial [COVID-19: Guidance for Prioritizing Health Care Workers for COVID-19 Vaccination](#)ⁱⁱ to aid in prioritizing within that group of HCW for the limited supply of vaccine that may become available in the next 4 weeks. We commit to providing timely information to all HCW about when and how vaccination will occur for each group of HCW, as we work through the current comparatively low supply of vaccine vs demand.

For more information on the province’s three-phased vaccine distribution implementation plan, please visit [COVID-19 vaccines for Ontario](#).ⁱⁱⁱ

There are a number of COVID-19 resources and documents available through our Health Professional Portal at www.smdhu.org/hportal as well as through [Public Health Ontario](#)^{iv} and the [Government of Ontario](#).^v

ⁱ <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/recommendations-use-covid-19-vaccines.html>

ⁱⁱ http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/Guidance_for_Prioritizing_HCW_covid19_vaccination_2020-01-08.pdf

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccines-ontario>

^{iv} <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/>

^v http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/2019_guidance.aspx.