

Update on COVID-19 Vaccination

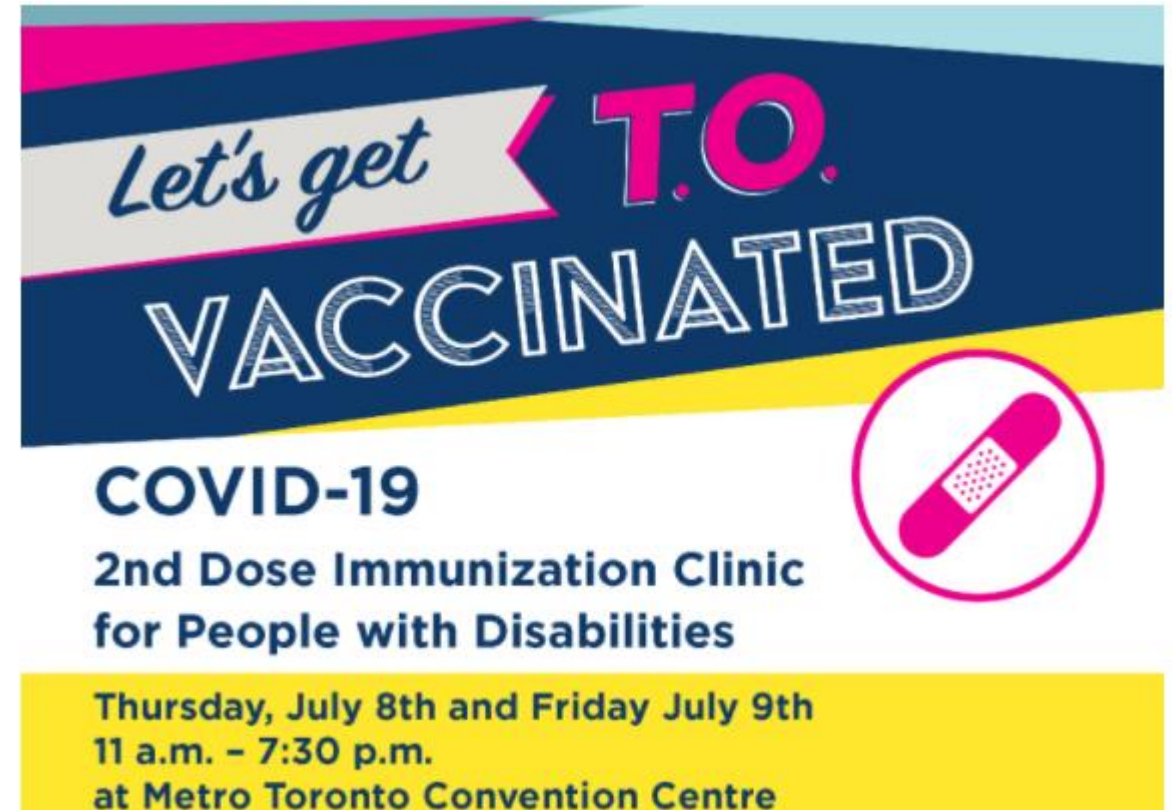
Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee
September 2, 2021

Medical Officer of Health
Dr. Eileen de Villa

- As of August 16, of all Toronto residents aged 12 and up:
 - 81.7% had initiated vaccination
 - 74.3% had been fully vaccinated
- In total, over 4.46 million vaccines have been administered in Toronto.
- The City of Toronto is focused on expanding access to vaccines through mobile clinics and local, targeted pilots that bring vaccines to people where they are.

1. Immunization Clinics for People with Disabilities

- Four clinics were held specifically for people with disabilities and their families/caregivers at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre:
 - Two first dose clinics on May 13 and May 19, 2021
 - Two follow-up clinics on July 8 and 9, 2021
- Over 2,000 people were immunized at these clinics.



2. Simplified, Centralized Vaccine Booking Process

- Toronto Public Health created a new approach for the disability-specific clinics that went over-and-above the provincial vaccine booking system.
- The City made it a priority to simplify and centralize the vaccine booking process for people with disabilities. This included reconfiguring the Toronto Public Health booking system to include a space for indicating accommodation needs, as recommended by the Accessibility Task Force.
- Toronto Public Health continues to work with the province to promote improvements to their vaccine booking system, including features that address accessibility requirements.

3. Accessible Clinic Locations

The City established accessible clinic locations to be responsive to a wide variety of needs. Accommodations at the clinics included:

- American Sign Language and deaf interpreters, as well as on site support from March of Dimes and Reena
- Designated areas for those who are unable to wear a mask inside the clinic
- Private rooms for those who needed privacy, support, or to lie down
- Limiting the number of people on site at any given time to avoid crowding
- Large, open recovery areas that ensured that individuals could safely move around if required during the 15 minute wait rather than sit in one place

3. Accessible Clinic Locations Continued

City of Toronto Mass Immunization Clinics

- All City of Toronto mass immunization clinics have parking near the entrance, ramps, elevators, and wheelchairs.
- Clients who need a care provider or service animal with them will be accommodated.
- Privacy rooms are available upon request.
- If clients require an accommodation, they may alert a staff member upon arrival or at any time while at the clinic.

Team Toronto Partners

- Accessibility Task Force members presented their recommendations to the Ontario Health Teams Engagement Leads on how to strengthen accessibility needs at clinics offered by health partners and hospitals.

4. Accessibility and Accommodations Training for Staff

- Toronto Public Health Accessibility Clinic staff met with the Accessibility Task Force to better understand accommodation requirements and to ensure that staff at disability-specific clinics would be able to meet everyone's needs.
- Toronto Public Health clinic staff were also provided with training documents on:
 - Supporting inclusion and accessibility at mass immunization sites;
 - Tips for inclusive and accessible service;
 - An accessibility audit checklist; and
 - A training video on how to work with clients with accommodation requirements.

5. Clear Communication in Accessible Formats

- The City's website is a key source of all COVID-19 information.
 - Website includes information on accessibility at each City run clinic, as well as transportation options to clinics for those who require assistance.
 - American Sign Language translations have been posted for key pieces of content. Videos are embedded in the relevant sections of the website and available in a Toronto Public Health YouTube playlist.
 - The City's website complies with Web Accessibility Guidelines, in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.
- The City worked with the Accessibility Task Force members to ensure that American Sign Language and deaf interpreters were available at the four disability-specific immunization clinics.

6. In-Home Vaccination

- Approximately 8,000 people have received their first and second dose through the Homebound Sprint initiative.
- In-home vaccination referrals and requests continue to be received by Homebound Sprint partners for both first and second doses.
- Anyone with questions about homebound vaccination can connect with their primary care or homecare service provider, or may connect with the Toronto Seniors Helpline by phone or online.

- May 10, 2021: The Board of Health requested the Medical Officer of Health to explore collecting disaggregated data on COVID-19 cases, risks and vaccination rates for people with disabilities in Toronto.
- Toronto Public Health continues to receive data from ICES (formerly the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences) with information on one and two dose vaccine coverage for people with an intellectual or developmental disability, updated on a monthly basis.
- TPH will continue to collaborate with ICES to explore obtaining more information, including data on other types of disabilities.

- Toronto Public Health and the Accessibility Task Force are currently planning four additional community pop-up clinics for people with disabilities in October.
- Social Development, Finance and Administration staff are also working with the Centre for Independent Living in Toronto and 10 other partner organizations to support neighbourhood outreach to disabled Torontonians through Community Ambassadors.
- Toronto Public Health would like to thank the Accessibility Task Force for their support in developing dedicated clinics for people with disabilities, as well as ensuring the City's vaccine rollout responds to the needs of the community.

Thank you

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