

From: [Wendy Porch](#)
To: [Vanessa Fletcher](#); [Julie Lavertu](#); [Councillor Cressy](#)
Cc: [Aina-Nia Grant](#); [Mini Alakkatusery](#)
Subject: Accessibility Task Force on COVID 19 Vaccines - Letter to the Board of Health
Date: May 7, 2021 12:41:12 PM
Attachments: [Accessibility TF Letter to BOH May 5 2021.pdf](#)

Please find attached correspondence from the Accessibility Task Force to the Board of Health. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss the work of the Task Force next week.

Regards,

Wendy

Wendy Porch, M. Ed.

Executive Director

Pronouns: She/Her

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Please note - In an effort to safeguard staff and consumers of CILT, all CILT staff are working remotely at this time. We have full access to our electronic files, including email and voicemail, however we will not be able to access physical files at this time. Please continue to reach out as you normally would and staff will respond as quickly as possible.

Donate Now ! CILT now accepts online donations in partnership with Canada Helps! Your generous donation goes entirely towards supporting the organization and its life-enriching programs and projects for hundreds of persons with a disability in Toronto and beyond. To donate, please click [Donate Now](#). You will receive a tax receipt directly from Canada Helps.

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To: Chair and Board of Health Members
From: Wendy Porch, Chair, Accessibility Task Force on COVID 19 Vaccines
Subject: Item HL28.1, Response to COVID-19, May 2021 Update - Recommendations to Enhance Accessibility of Vaccine Roll-out

May 5, 2021

The City of Toronto's Accessibility Task Force on COVID 19 Vaccines formed in March 2021 to:

- to make recommendations to effectively close equity gaps in current vaccine planning and increase vaccination rates among people with disabilities and their caregivers;
- to share knowledge about COVID-19 infection risks and measures that reduce risks, and enhance testing and safety practices across disability communities;
- to identify, review and address concerns with COVID-19 vaccines and barriers to accessing the vaccine.

To date, the Task Force has developed the following recommendations:

1. That people with disabilities who rely on daily service provision/are resident in congregate care settings are immediately prioritized in phase 1 of the vaccine roll-out
2. That the City of Toronto's Vaccine roll-out partners, including Ontario Health Teams and Toronto Public Health, work with supportive housing and developmental service providers to immediately:
 - a. Identify priority days for client vaccine bookings
 - b. Identify mobile/outreach teams to vaccinate people in congregate care settings who cannot travel to a vaccination site
 - c. Provide vaccines directly to Vibrant Healthcare Alliance and Safe Haven for use in disability community specific vaccine clinics

While progress is being made in our partnership with the City, the Task Force request the City to consider the following additional recommendations.

Acknowledging the growing COVID-19 case counts and the increased likelihood that Ontario's Critical Care Triage Protocol will be invoked, the Accessibility Task Force on COVID-19 Vaccines at the City of Toronto recommends that people with disabilities be prioritized for vaccination to avoid the potential need for hospital and critical care admission.

The urgent vaccination of people with disabilities requires the provision of:

3. A simplified, centralized vaccine booking process that includes disability related priority groups and navigation support for disabled people.
4. Accessibility and accommodations training for staff at vaccine clinics to appropriately provide accommodations and care from a human rights perspective.
5. Accessible clinic locations that include private, quiet spaces available for those who require this as an accommodation, and other accommodations as requested.
6. Disability-specific clinics such as mobile, drive through, and pop-up community clinics that are appropriately resourced to ensure these options are offered in a timely fashion.
7. Prioritized access to in-home vaccination through existing mobile vaccination outreach methods including EMS and OHT mediated mobile vaccination efforts.
8. Clear communications and navigation resources (in accessible formats such as Braille, plain language, ASL) specific to people with disabilities that includes information about their eligibility and how to access vaccines.

To ensure harmony between the Task Force's work and the overarching vaccine roll-out being undertaken by the City of Toronto, the Task Force requests the opportunity to present on the work undertaken to date and the recommendations developed to the Board of Health related to Item HL28.1, Response to COVID-19 - May 2021 Update at the Board's upcoming meeting.

Sincerely,



Wendy Porch

Chair, Accessibility Task Force on COVID 19 Vaccines
Executive Director, Centre for Independent Living in Toronto