

## Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

March 31, 2021 at 2 p.m.

Members' Lounge, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W

Yesterday, across the network of 5 city-operated COVID-19 immunization clinics alone, more than 5,000 people received their first dose of vaccine.

This means that yesterday alone, 5,000 more people made the effort to protect both themselves, and those around them, from COVID-19.

All of us are eager to have the current restrictions lifted, allowing us to be with our family and friends, to get our hair cut, to dine out, to gather with our friends, to travel and to do all of the other things that we miss so badly.

Continuing to follow the public health advice and restrictions, and getting vaccinated against COVID-19 at the earliest opportunity, is what will make all of that possible.

The sooner we can all get vaccinated, the sooner the restrictions can be lifted and the sooner we can return to the activities we miss so much.

I am very pleased that more than 19,000 people have already booked their appointment for COVID-19 vaccination this week.

This means that there are still vaccination appointments available for approximately 12,000 people between today and Sunday.

As a reminder, we are operating 5 COVID-19 mass immunization clinics at present.

These clinics are located inside:

- the Metro Toronto Convention Centre,
- the Toronto Congress Centre,
- the Scarborough Town Centre,
- Mitchell Field Arena, and

- The Malvern Community Recreation Centre.

All 5 of these clinics are open 7 days per week, with appointments available between 11:00 AM and 8:00 PM daily.

All 5 of our clinics will be operating every day over the upcoming Easter weekend.

This would be a great opportunity to help everyone in your circle of family and friends, who were born in 1951 or earlier, to book their vaccination appointment, in the clinic of your choice, so that they can receive their first life-saving dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

Operations in all 5, city-operated clinics are running smoothly every day.

We continue to receive numerous notes of thanks from people who have received their vaccine in a city-operated clinic.

I am so pleased to hear from so many people who took the time to let our team know that they found the process to be simple, stress-free, easy to navigate, fast and enjoyable.

Many have commented on how helpful our team of professionals have been, throughout the process.

Wait times for those who arrive shortly before their scheduled appointment are very short, with most people not having to wait at all.

In fact, the majority of people are checked in, vaccinated and checked out of the clinic, in about 30 minutes.

I am also very pleased that, in addition to the network of city-operated immunization clinics, there are numerous other clinic locations available across the city, operated by our healthcare partners and pharmacies.

On Monday April 5, we will open the 6<sup>th</sup> city-operated COVID-19 mass immunization clinic inside the Hangar, in Downsview Park.

Community interest in this clinic is very high, and I am very pleased to report that this clinic is already fully booked for Monday April 5.

There are appointments available at the Hangar clinic location beginning on Tuesday next week.

Anyone who was born in 1951 or earlier can book their appointment to receive their COVID-19 vaccine by accessing the online booking system, which is available at [Toronto.ca/COVID-19](https://toronto.ca/COVID-19).

Or, if you were born in 1951 or earlier, and would prefer to book by phone, please call 1-888-999-6488.

Please do not contact 3-1-1 nor Toronto Public Health for assistance in booking your COVID-19 vaccination appointment as our staff are not able to access the COVAX system on your behalf.

If you have family or friends, who were born in 1951 or earlier and who may need assistance or encouragement to book their COVID-19 vaccination appointment, please assist them in booking their appointment.

Please continue to monitor [toronto.ca/COVID-19](https://toronto.ca/COVID-19) for the most up to date information on Immunizations in Toronto.

Thank you.