

Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

March 8, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

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

Good afternoon.

Before I begin this afternoon, I too would like to acknowledge the importance of International Women's Day.

I am privileged to work alongside a number of incredible women each and every day.

From first responders to senior executives, and medical doctors to those working on the front lines on the battle against COVID-19, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the unwavering leadership and dedication, made visible each and every day, by truly extraordinary women.

We need only to look at the right side of this table to understand how unmistakable this is for us all.

Thank you for all you do and for paving the way for an even brighter future for us all.

From the outset of COVID-19 in Toronto, we have developed incident management systems and processes that enable timely and effective responses to the rapidly-changing circumstances that have presented themselves.

I am very pleased to advise that our team is now responding to rapidly developing, good news.

Next week, as Mayor Tory announced, the City of Toronto will begin to receive much larger, regular allocations of COVID-19 vaccine from the Province of Ontario, for administration in City-operated mass immunization clinics.

The Province of Ontario has indicated that a combination of Moderna and Pfizer vaccine will roll out to both City-operated and healthcare partner clinics as follows:

- On the week of March 15 - 17,500 doses
- On the week of March 22 - 98,920 doses
- On the week of March 29 – 174,200 doses
- On the week of April 5 - 80,730 doses
- On the week of April 12 - 80,730 doses.

Thereafter, we will continue to receive allocations of COVID-19 vaccine, in order to enable the accelerated administration of COVID-19 immunization across Toronto.

As a result of this increased allocation of vaccine, as Mayor Tory advised, I am very pleased that we will be opening 3 city-operated mass COVID-19 immunization clinics next week – more than two weeks ahead of schedule.

On March 17, the following city-operated COVID-19 immunization clinics will begin initial vaccinations for Toronto residents, 80 years of age and older:

- Metro Toronto Convention Centre;
- Scarborough Town Centre; and the
- Toronto Congress Centre

Beginning March 17, these clinics will operate 7 days per week, from 11:00 AM through 8:00 PM daily.

We continue to prepare our network of 9 fixed location immunization clinics, which will be augmented and supported by mobile and partner-operated clinics.

As previously announced, the Provincial clinic registration and scheduling system is to come online on March 15.

However, in order to avoid delaying the launch of City-run clinic operations, we are working with our Provincial partners to establish an interim registration and booking process for these 3 initial clinics.

This interim solution will build on our previous proof of concept clinic operational plans.

Our teams are hard at work now finalizing all of these details, which will be shared in the coming days, including when eligible residents will be able to begin booking their appointments and how they will go about doing so.

Our clinic operational plans are fully scalable, and we have plans in place to be able to increase the number of vaccines that are able to be administered in the City-operated clinics to approximately 975,000 per month, as vaccine availability permits.

Further, from the outset of our planning operations, we have included plans to be able to expand the hours of clinic operations as required, including the expansion to 24 hour operations.

At the point where we are administering approximately 500,000 doses of vaccine per month, our Immunization Task Force Command Team will give careful consideration to expanding the hours of clinic operations, in a manner consistent with both vaccine availability and resident need.

Building, implementing and operating plans of this complexity and magnitude require an extraordinary effort.

I thank everyone for their patience as we finalize the specifics relating to the interim registration and scheduling system, and I look forward to sharing more details with you shortly.

Currently, our hospital partners continue to vaccinate priority groups, identified by the province Ontario.

Vaccine supply is allocated directly to hospitals in Toronto, by the Province. Today, our hospital partners announced a streamlined registration system for eligible residents, who wish to register for vaccination at a **Hospital or Ontario Health Team partner-operated** clinic.

This system is now available at vaccinateto.ca.

As this system was just launched today, people are asked to be patient, as they may encounter some delays registering.

As vaccine supply continues to increase, and in addition to the 9 city-operated clinics that are being prepared for operation, there are plans in place, with our partners, for approximately 350 additional clinics, including:

- 49 clinics that will be operated by hospital and Ontario Health Team partners;
- 46 clinics that will be operated by Community health centres; and
- 249 clinics that will be operated by Pharmacies.

This extensive network of COVID-19 immunization clinics, which will also include primary care physicians, will ensure that vaccines are widely available, across the City of Toronto, as very soon as vaccine availability permits.

I am blessed to work alongside a team of truly dedicated and talented people, who continue to give their all every day.

I would like to extend my sincere personal thanks to our entire team, who are working day and night, to bring the total City of Toronto COVID-19 Immunization Plan to reality.

The COVID-19 pandemic has taken an immense toll on us all, and the impacts on our residents and businesses have been truly unprecedented.

Our ability to accelerate the opening of city-operated COVID-19 immunization clinics next week, represents a very bright light on the horizon.

Thank you for continuing to help fight COVID-19, and thank you for your continued patience, as we have waited for the arrival of more vaccine.

Thank you.