

## Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

**March 17 2021 at 2:00 p.m.**

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

At 11:00 this morning, we successfully commenced operations in the first 3 of the city-operated COVID-19 mass immunization clinics.

As present, residents 80 years of age and older are receiving their first dose of Pfizer vaccine inside the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Scarborough Town Centre and the Toronto Congress Centre.

1,350 people have appointments to be vaccinated in our city-operated clinics today.

Appointments in all three of these clinics are fully booked from today through Sunday.

As of my last update, there were still appointments available on Monday of next week and each day thereafter.

Appointments are continuing to book up steadily.

As of 10:00 this morning, more than 21,000 people have successfully booked their vaccination appointments in city-operated mass immunization clinics.

Beginning today and through Sunday March 21<sup>st</sup>, a total of 1,350 people are able to be vaccinated in our city-operated clinics, each day.

On March 22, our capacity jumps to 4,320 vaccinations per day in our city-operated clinics.

On March 29, our capacity jumps again to 6,300 vaccinations per day in our city-operated clinics, with both Malvern Community Centre and Mitchell Field coming online.

On April 5, our capacity, once again increases to 8,100 vaccinations per day in our city-operated clinics, with clinic operations inside the Hangar in Downsview Park coming online.

And finally, after April 12, our planned capacity will increase to more than 18,000 doses per day, with our final 3 city-operated mass immunization clinics – North Toronto Memorial Community Centre, Carmine Stefano Community Centre and Cloverdale Mall all coming online.

This of course is all dependent on the continued availability of vaccine.

Just a few minutes ago, I spoke with the clinic managers, who are on site in each of our three clinics.

Clinic operations are running smoothly and the pace of operations is consistent and appropriate with the needs of those being vaccinated.

We have mobility assistance devices on site, along with trained healthcare professionals and emergency first responders on site who are helping anyone who requires assistance in moving through the process.

Each of the city-operated mass immunization clinics will operate between 11:00 AM and 8:00 PM, 7 days per week.

I remind everyone that vaccinations are only available by appointment and are not available on a walk-in basis.

I strongly encourage everyone who was born in 1941 or earlier to make your appointment for vaccination now.

If you have an Ontario photo health card, you can book using the online registration system, which can be accessed 24 hours per day at [covid19.ontariohealth.ca](https://covid19.ontariohealth.ca).

If you prefer to book by phone, the Provincial call- centre can be accessed by calling 1-888-999-6488.

The Provincial call centre is available from 8:00 am through 8:00 pm, seven days per week.

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.

At present, only those who were born in 1941 or earlier, are able to book appointments in city-operated mass immunization clinics.

In order to avoid placing unnecessary loading on the booking system, we ask those who do not meet those eligibility criteria to avoid trying to access the online booking system until such time as you are eligible for vaccine.

This will help to ensure an efficient and effective booking process for everyone as we move forward.

If you choose not to book an appointment now, or if you are unable to book your appointment for any reason, rest assured your opportunity to book your appointment will continue.

Once you are eligible for vaccination under the Provincial vaccine priority framework, you remain eligible to book your appointment moving forward.

Please help us maintain effective clinic loading by not coming to a clinic, until you have a confirmed 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.