

Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

March 3, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

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

Good afternoon.

The City's Immunization Task Force continues to be hard at work, ensuring that we are ready to open City-operated COVID-19 Immunization Clinics as very soon as vaccine supply permits.

There are 14 COVID-19 immunization clinics in operation today, by our Healthcare partners, with each clinic putting needles into the arms of eligible recipients, as established via the Provincial prioritization framework.

Several of our hospital partners are using their available vaccine supply to vaccinate people 80 years of age and over, particularly those who regularly attend the hospital for healthcare services.

Our most recent data suggests that more than 36,000 vaccines have been administered to Toronto residents over the age of 80.

This effort is continuing daily as vaccine availability permits.

I want to assure everyone that we are working nonstop, to ensure that we are able to get people vaccinated as very quickly as possible.

That will happen as very soon as vaccine is made available by the Government of Canada, via the Province of Ontario, in the most efficient and effective means possible.

We are continuing to prepare the network of 9 city-operated immunization clinics for operation.

At present, 5 of these sites are prepared and the setup work is ongoing for the remaining four.

Based on the most recent information from the Province of Ontario, we are planning for the arrival of increased quantities of vaccine, in late March, and then on a go-forward basis thereafter.

Our plans are continuing to be implemented in accordance with these assumptions and we will be ready to launch city-operated immunization clinics as very soon as vaccine availability permits us to do so.

Since the arrival of the first vaccines in Ontario, and as of last week, a total of 195,370 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been allocated for administration within the City of Toronto, by the Province of Ontario.

This is comprised of 137,670 doses of Pfizer vaccine and 57,700 doses of Moderna vaccine.

All but 2,000 of these doses have been allocated directly to, and administered by our Healthcare partners.

Our Toronto Public Health team estimates that there are approximately 325,000 people to vaccinate in Toronto, in accordance with Phase 1 of the Provincial framework.

We remain committed to ensuring that every single dose of COVID-19 vaccine is administered, in as timely a manner as possible.

Once we have received the required supply of vaccine, via the Province of Ontario, we will commence with city-operated immunization clinic operations, which will further support the acceleration of immunization operations, across the city.

As we have outlined before, city-operated immunization clinics will leverage the Provincial scheduling system that is presently being pilot tested in a number of smaller jurisdictions across Ontario.

Once this system comes online for Toronto, residents will have access to a public-facing online registration and booking system.

The online system will also be supported and augmented by telephone-based support, via a provincially coordinated call centre.

When booking COVID-19 vaccination appointments, clients will be required to verify their personal information and their eligibility for vaccination, in accordance with the Provincial eligibility framework.

Once confirmed that the client meets the applicable eligibility criteria, they will be provided with a unique registration code that will enable them to securely schedule their vaccination appointment.

When booking their appointment, each client will have the ability to select an available clinic location and will be able to select their preferred appointment date and time, based on availability.

This system automatically populates the required scheduling information within the COVAX-ON system, which is the Province-wide system that we utilize for managing clinic operations and vaccination record keeping.

We are continuing to work every day with our Provincial partners, to ensure that we are able to make vaccines available, to everyone who wishes to receive one, as very soon as possible.

Once again, I ask that residents not call 3-1-1, nor the Toronto Public Health Info Line to inquire about booking COVID-19 vaccine appointments at this time, and that they not attend any of the clinic facilities, until such time as they have a confirmed appointment.

As vaccines become available, information will be shared about prioritization and how to book an appointment.

The arrival of additional vaccine is on the horizon. I thank everyone for their continued patience as the situation with vaccine availability continues to evolve.

I continue to encourage everyone to monitor www.toronto.ca/covid-19 for the most accurate and up to date information relating to both COVID-19 response and vaccine in Toronto.