

Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

March 29, 2021 at 2 p.m.

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

On Saturday March 27, the Province of Ontario extended vaccine eligibility, to Toronto residents, who are 70 years of age and older.

At 08:00 this morning, the Provincial booking system was again expanded to include those who are 70 years of age and older, both in Toronto and outside Toronto.

Between Saturday morning and 1:00 this afternoon, more than 19,000 people have successfully booked their COVID-19 vaccination appointments, in one of the city-operated clinics, between now and April 11.

Also as of 1:00 this afternoon, there are approximately 7,700 1st dose appointment slots available between now and Friday this week, although bookings are occurring steadily.

This, of course, is in addition to the appointments booked in healthcare partner-operated clinics and pharmacies.

At 11:00 this morning, two additional city-operated mass immunization clinics began operations.

This includes the clinic in the Malvern Community Recreation Centre in Scarborough and the clinic inside the Mitchell Field Arena in North York.

I am pleased to report that the uptake in both of these community-centre based clinics has been extremely positive.

As of this morning, the Malvern Community Centre clinic is fully booked from today through April 1, with appointments being available on April 2 and beyond.

Also as of this morning, the Mitchell Field Arena clinic is fully booked from today through April 6, with appointments being available on April 7 and beyond.

The Scarborough Town Centre clinic location is fully booked from today through April 1, with appointments being available on April 2 and beyond. Both the Metro Toronto Convention Centre clinic location and the Toronto Congress Centre clinic location still have appointments available each day this week.

This is largely as a result of the fact that we have significantly increased the daily capacity in both of these clinics, thereby opening additional appointments.

As of this morning, we are able to administer more than 42,000 vaccines this week, in our network of 5 city-operated mass immunization clinics.

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

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

At present, the majority of clients are in and out of the clinic in approximately 30 minutes.

All 5 of our City-operated clinics will be open and operating as normal, throughout the upcoming Easter long weekend, including Good Friday, Easter Sunday and Easter Monday.

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.

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.

Our Immunization Task Force is continuing to identify viable options to ensure that every available COVID-19 vaccine dose is administered each week.

At present, the Provincial Booking System, which is the system in use for all city-operated clinics, does not provide for stand-by list functionality.

Our immunization task force, however, is actively exploring options to maximize the administration of vaccine on a daily basis.

But let me stress that no vaccine is wasted.

Unused vaccine is either carried over to the next day's inventory or is reallocated to our healthcare partners for administration in their respective clinics.

I want to thank each and every client, who arrives for their confirmed appointment no earlier than 15 minutes prior.

This greatly assists us in ensuring that your experience is both timely and efficient.

I also thank everyone for limiting the number of support people that they bring with them to the clinic, by bringing only those necessary to support and assist them in moving through the clinic.

I continue to encourage anyone who requires a mobility device, such as a walker or wheelchair, to bring their device with them for their vaccine appointment, wherever possible.

We have increased the number of mobility devices we have on site, along with increasing the number of trained healthcare professionals and emergency first responders on site who available to help anyone who requires assistance in moving through the process.

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

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.

Please continue to monitor toronto.ca/COVID-19 for the most up to date information on Immunizations in Toronto.

Thank you.