

Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

April 21, 2021 at 2 p.m.

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

The network of 9, city-operated vaccine clinics continue to operate daily, across Toronto, with people receiving vaccine from 11:00 AM through 8:00 PM, seven days per week.

All 9 clinics continue to operate efficiently and smoothly, with each clinic operating either at or very near maximum capacity, on a daily basis, based on vaccine availability.

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, including the 15 minute aftercare observation period, after you are vaccinated.

The number of appointments that are made available in city-operated vaccine clinics, corresponds directly with the number of doses of vaccine that are available to be administered.

At present, we are able to administer 56,322 doses of vaccine each week, across the network of city-operated clinics.

We are very pleased that the number of doses of COVID-19 vaccine that the City of Toronto receives each week, from the Province of Ontario, is expected to increase over the next few weeks.

This allows us to achieve two key objectives:

To increase the capacity of our network of city-operated vaccine clinics, especially those serving priority neighbourhoods; and

To significantly enhance the allocation of vaccine to Hospital and Ontario Health Team Partners moving forward, thereby increasing opportunities for both mobile and pop-up clinics in our communities.

As Mayor Tory advised, we will soon be opening the next block of appointment dates, in city-operated vaccine clinics, via the Provincial Booking System.

This block of dates will begin on May 10 and will run through June 6, resulting in more than 231,000 additional individual appointments being made available for eligible residents to receive their vaccine.

We are expanding clinic operations in a number of clinics, including the Hangar, Scarborough Town Centre, Carmine Stefano and the Malvern Community Centre.

This expansion of clinic operations will make it possible for more than 60,000 people to be vaccinated against COVID-19 each week, in the city-operated vaccine clinics alone.

Many more will also be vaccinated in clinics operated by our hospital and Ontario Health Team partners as well.

Eligible residents can book their vaccine appointment, in city-operated clinics, by accessing the online Provincial Booking System at [Toronto.ca/covid19](https://toronto.ca/covid19) or via the Provincial Call Centre at 1-888-999-6488.

Mayor Tory announced that we are also significantly expanding our mobile clinic operations, as a result of a "made in Toronto" solution that builds on our previous success.

From the outset of our COVID-19 clinic operations, beginning with the initial proof of concept clinic in January, our Toronto Paramedics and Toronto Firefighters have been directly engaged.

Working under the direction of our Toronto Public Health team and in collaboration with our Ontario Health Team and Hospital partners, we have leveraged our first responders from the outset, in order to maximize our ability to deliver vaccine across our City.

I am very pleased that we are, once again, significantly expanding our mobile vaccine deployment capabilities across Toronto.

Under the leadership of Toronto Public Health and the Sunnybrook Centre for Prehospital Medicine, and in collaboration with our Ontario Health Team partners, we are deploying additional Paramedics and Firefighters to support our mobile clinic efforts.

This will further assist some of our most vulnerable residents, such as those experiencing homelessness, those who rely on our shelters, drop-in centres and those living outdoors.

First responders, including both Paramedics and Firefighters, respond to people in their time of need, where they are, 24 hours per day and 7 days per week and are ideally suited to support these expanded mobile clinic operations.

Our Toronto Paramedics, alongside physicians and other healthcare professionals, will manage the clinical roles such as vaccine loading and administering vaccine.

Our Toronto Firefighters who will manage mobile clinic logistics, screening, registration and after-care.

From the outset, we have ensured that our plans and processes are both responsive and nimble.

The expansion of these teams is another example of our ability to respond to the ever-changing nature of COVID-19 response and community need.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation and thanks to the entire team that has worked day and night to make this expansion of mobile operations a reality.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank both CUPE Local 416 and the Toronto Professional Firefighters Association for their support and leadership in making this a reality.

Our Ontario Health Team partners, in collaboration with Toronto Public Health, will determine the locations that our expanded network of mobile teams will serve, along with the means by which each mobile clinic will be scheduled, booked and communicated.

This will ensure that we are best able to meet the unique needs and circumstances of each specific neighbourhood and population that we serve.

Each day, across Toronto, our Hospital and Ontario Health Team partners are operating a number of pop-up clinics, with great success.

It is not uncommon to experience significant line-ups in many of these pop-up clinic locations, nor is that necessarily a bad thing.

This is the result of the fact that each pop-up clinic serves a unique and specific group of people, in priority hotspot communities across Toronto, with each location determining the clinic operating model that best serves that particular location.

While the city-operated vaccine clinics operate solely on the basis of pre-booked appointments and specifically assigned appointment times, pop-up clinics generally do not.

For many of the communities that pop-up clinics aim to serve, our community partners and local host agencies explain that many clients are not able nor comfortable in accessing online or telephone based booking systems.

Accordingly, pop-up clinics tend to operate on an in-person, drop-in basis as opposed to pre-booking appointments.

Further, our community partners explain that for many, seeing familiar and trusted faces, either in line to receive vaccine or involved in clinic operations, builds both trust and confidence.

I would like to thank and acknowledge the many vaccination partners and local community host agencies who are working together to vaccinate thousands of people each day.

With more than 948,000 doses of COVID-19 vaccine administered in Toronto already, we have much to be thankful for and much to look forward to.

Thank you for all that you do to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in our City.

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

Thank you.