

Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

April 14, 2020 at 2 p.m.

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

As of Monday morning this week, all 9 city-operated COVID-19 vaccine clinics are operating 7 days per week, with appointments available between 11:00 AM and 8:00 PM daily.

All 9 clinics continue to operate efficiently and smoothly, with each clinic being fully booked on a daily basis.

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.

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.

Assuming that vaccine availability increases in the future, as the Province forecasts that it will, we look forward to being able to administer more than 122,000 doses each week, in our city-operated vaccine clinics.

We intentionally scale our clinic operations, in order to protect vaccine allotment for our Hospital and Ontario Health Team partners as well, such that their clinic operations are able to continue to the largest extent possible.

At present, City-operated vaccine clinics administer Pfizer vaccine.

We only order the actual number of doses of Pfizer vaccine that are required for clinic operations each week.

Any allocated doses of Pfizer vaccine that are not used in city-operated clinics, as a result of missed or cancelled appointments, are provided directly to our Team Toronto hospital and healthcare partners.

We receive shipments of Pfizer vaccine, from the Province of Ontario, on a weekly basis.

The most recent shipment of Pfizer vaccine was received on April 12th.

That vaccine shipment contained the amount of vaccine required to operate our city-operated clinics for the next 7 days.

Accordingly, at present, the total quantity of vaccine in our freezer is equal to the amount of vaccine required to operate our city-operated clinics until end of clinic operations on Monday April 19th.

The next shipment of Pfizer vaccine is scheduled to arrive in the afternoon of April 19th, which will provide us with the amount of vaccine required for the next 7 days of operation.

In summary, we do not stockpile vaccine.

The only vaccine that is held in our freezers, is the vaccine required to operate the fully-booked, city-operated vaccine clinics between the date of delivery and the next Pfizer delivery date, which occur 7 days apart.

Vaccines that are allocated to our Team Toronto hospital partners are shipped directly to the respective hospitals by the Province of Ontario.

This is comprised largely of Moderna vaccine.

It is our understanding that the shipment of Moderna vaccine, originally scheduled to arrive on April 19 is now expected to arrive on April 29th.

Astra-Zeneca vaccine is provided directly to Pharmacy and Primary Care Physician partners, directly by the Province of Ontario.

The demand for vaccine appointments, in our city-operated clinics, continues to be very high.

All 9 of our city-operated clinics are fully booked for the next 7 days.

As of 07:00 this morning, the first available appointment, in a city-operated clinic, is on April 21st.

As of this morning, both our Scarborough Town Centre and Malvern Community Recreation Centre clinic locations are now fully booked through May 9th.

To date, we have administered 30,762 doses of vaccine through the Scarborough Town Centre clinic and a further 10,725 doses of vaccine through the Malvern Community Recreation Centre clinic.

We anticipate being able to open the next block of appointment dates, within the Provincial Booking System, next week.

Our Immunization Task Force continues to be focused on vaccinating as many people as possible, as quickly as possible.

This is a goal supported by our "Team Toronto" partners, including the City of Toronto, Ontario Health Teams, Hospitals, Pharmacies and Primary Care Physicians, all of whom are working in collaboration to maximize vaccine roll-out across Toronto, including supporting mobile clinics as part of Phase 2.

Again, as vaccine availability increases, there will be a corresponding increase in the number of partner-operated vaccine clinics, as well as the number of mobile and pop-up clinics that are able to be operated across the City.

In accordance with the vaccine eligibility requirements, established by the Province of Ontario, the following groups of people are able to book their vaccine appointment, in a city-operated vaccine clinic, via the Provincial Booking System:

Anyone 60 years of age or older, on a city-wide basis; and anyone 50 years of age or older, who lives in a designated hot spot neighbourhood.

Of course, anyone who is 55 years of age or older is also eligible to receive vaccine in a pharmacy.

Other opportunities may also be available in hospital and Ontario health team partner clinics.

Recently, the Province of Ontario announced that residents who are 18 years of age or older, and who live in hotspot neighbourhoods in Toronto, are able to receive vaccine in location-specific, mobile or pop-up vaccine clinics, in hotspot areas, as they occur.

Generally speaking, vaccine appointments in mobile and pop-up vaccine clinics are not booked in advance.

While each specific situation is unique, it is common for these hot spot mobile and pop up clinics to be operated on a walk-up basis, with eligible adults coming from the very specific location that is being served.

For example, residents of a specific building or complex, located in a hotspot neighbourhood, would be directly notified of an upcoming pop-up clinic in that building or complex, along with the relevant information as to how and when to receive vaccine in that upcoming clinic.

In summary, and in general terms, residents don't travel to a mobile or pop-up vaccine clinic.

Rather mobile or pop-up clinics come to a specific group of residents, in a specifically prioritized hotspot location, as vaccine availability permits.

Further information as to current opportunities to receive COVID-19 vaccine can be obtained at [Toronto.ca/covid19](https://toronto.ca/covid19) as well as through our Team Toronto hospital and Ontario health team partner website at vaccineto.ca

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.

I continue to ask that you 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](https://toronto.ca/COVID-19) for the most up to date information on Immunizations in Toronto.

Thank you.