

Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

May 5, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

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

Before I begin my formal remarks this afternoon, I would like to acknowledge that this is Canadian Mental Health Week.

This year's theme is # Get Real About How You Feel.

The impacts associated with COVID-19 have been, and continue to be far reaching.

The additional stresses, fears and pressures that are the result of the COVID-19 pandemic, are of course in addition to those of everyday life.

Over the course of COVID-19, there hasn't been a week where I have not had the opportunity to talk about those stresses and pressures with a number of people.

Each of the feelings that we all experience, especially as we continue to move through COVID-19, are normal responses to abnormal events.

It is okay not to be okay and it is okay to get real about how we feel.

There are important mental health resources available on [Toronto.ca/covid-19](https://toronto.ca/covid-19) and I encourage you to take advantage of them without hesitation.

Reaching out to seek professional help to both get healthy and stay healthy are signs of strength and I encourage you to feel comfortable in doing so.

Regular check-ins with a psychologist is an important part of my personal health strategy and he plays an important role in helping me to remain strong, healthy and resilient.

Please take a few minutes to check in on your family, friends and those around you and let's do our part to Get Real About How We Feel.

The eligibility for booking vaccine appointments is determined by the Province of Ontario.

On Monday morning this week, the Province extended vaccine eligibility to those who are 18 years of age and older, who live in a COVID-19 hotspot community.

Since Monday morning, 223,817 people have successfully booked their appointment to receive COVID-19, in city-operated clinics.

First and foremost, I am very pleased to see such an overwhelming response to vaccine eligibility and I thank everyone for making vaccination their priority.

Of course, our ability to make vaccine appointments available and to administer vaccine in city-operated clinics, is dependent upon the supply of vaccine that is available to us.

As of noon today, each of the city-operated clinics are either fully booked, or very close to being fully booked, on a daily basis, between now and June 6.

- For the remainder of this week, our clinics are 99% booked;
- For the week of May 10, our clinics are 93% booked;
- For the week of May 17, our clinics are 97% booked;
- For the week of May 24, our clinics are 95% booked;
- For the week of May 31, our clinics are 96% booked.

Should the Province of Ontario make additional vaccine available to us for any of these periods of time, we are able to open additional appointments to match.

Beginning tomorrow morning at 08:00 AM, the Province of Ontario will again expand vaccine eligibility to include the following additional groups of people:

Anyone aged 50 years of age or older;

- Individuals with high-risk health conditions, as defined by the Province; and
- Essential workers who are unable to work from home listed in the Province's "Group One" listing.

The specifics relating to these groups are available at [Toronto.ca/covid19](https://toronto.ca/covid19).

I am pleased to advise that as of tomorrow morning, an additional 60,000 vaccine appointments will be made available for booking in city operated vaccine clinics, via the Provincial Booking System from June 7-13.

We are opening this block of appointments on a proactive basis, in an effort to ensure that people have as much opportunity as possible to book their vaccine appointments.

Over the course of this week, we are able to vaccinate 80,214 people across our network of 9 city-operated clinics.

The number of appointments that are made available corresponds directly with the number of doses of vaccine that are available to be administered.

As additional vaccine is provided to the City by the Province of Ontario, we are both able and ready to expand our clinic operations to match.

I remind everyone that, in addition to the vaccine opportunities in city-operated clinics, our hospital and Ontario Health Team partners are also administering vaccines each day.

Please go to vaccineto.ca for opportunities that may exist across their network of clinics.

I also encourage those active on Twitter to follow Vaccine Hunters Canada for additional opportunities and information about vaccine outside of the City's clinics.

Our vaccine clinic planning includes the requirements to deliver the 2nd doses of vaccine that are scheduled.

We will begin to administer scheduled 2nd doses of vaccine on the week of July 7 weekly and thereafter.

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

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