

Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

May 3, 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 emergency preparedness week in Canada.

Never before has the role of emergency management been more evident, than in response to COVID-19.

Toronto's emergency operations centre has been activated now for 419 consecutive days, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

I would like to acknowledge and thank each of our emergency management professionals, who work each day to ensure that we are always ready to respond to emergencies as they happen.

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

Effective 08:00 AM this morning, the Province of Ontario extended vaccine eligibility to those 18 years of age and older, who live in hotspot areas.

Accordingly, as of this morning, the following groups of people are eligible to book their appointments to be vaccinated against COVID-19 in a city-operated clinic:

- Anyone 55* years of age and older;
- Anyone 18 years of age and older who lives in a hotspot neighbourhood;
- Anyone with a highest risk or high risk* health condition, as determined by the Province of Ontario;
- Anyone who is pregnant;
- Childcare workers in licensed child care settings;

- Any elementary or secondary education workers who live or work in a [COVID-19 hot spot](#) in Toronto; and
- Any elementary or secondary education workers who support students with special education needs.

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

Between 08:00 this morning and 1:00 this afternoon, 40,144 people had successfully booked their 1st and 2nd dose vaccine appointments in City-operated clinics.

As of 1:00 this afternoon, there were approximately 3,900 appointments remaining for this week, the majority of which are in the Scarborough Town Centre location.

Again, as of 1:00 this afternoon, 25,000 appointments remain available for the week of May 10 and approximately 50,000 appointments available for the weeks of May 17, May 24 and May 31.

Again this morning, an additional 20,000 appointments were made available for the week of May 10, increasing our city-operated clinic capacity to 75,222 for that week.

Further, the Province of Ontario has opened the next block of appointments, in City-operated clinics, within the Provincial Booking System.

This new block of appointments runs from May 17 through June 6, with 180,306 appointments available for booking over that 3 week period.

In total, between May 3 and June 6, there are 332,502 1st dose vaccine appointments available in 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.

As a reminder, anyone who has booked their 1st dose vaccine appointment in a city-operated clinic, will also have booked their 2nd dose appointment as well.

Our vaccine allocation and clinic operations planning includes each of the 2nd dose requirements and scheduling as well.

Finally, I remind everyone that, in Toronto, we allocate any unused doses of vaccine, resulting from cancelled or missed appointments in city-operated vaccine clinics, directly to our Hospital and Ontario Health Team partners.

The Provincial Booking System does not include stand-by or wait list functionality.

These reallocated doses are administered in priority hotspot neighbourhoods on a daily basis.

For this reason, there isn't a standby or wait list system required, nor available within the City of Toronto.

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

**Note: During the press conference, my remarks indicated that those aged 50+ and those with "high-risk" health conditions were made eligible to book vaccine appointments as of the morning of May 3. This was incorrect. As of May 3, those aged 55+ and those with "highest-risk" health conditions are eligible with those aged 50+ and those with "high-risk" health conditions becoming eligible on Thursday May 6. These errors have been corrected in this copy.*