

## Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

**June 2, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.**

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

With more than 2.2 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine administered thus far in Toronto, more than 70% of eligible adults, over the age of 18, have received their 1<sup>st</sup> dose of vaccine.

This is an important and impressive milestone that moves us closer to the resumption of a much more normal life in our City, which is why we continue this work 7 days per week.

Thank you to everyone who has, and continues to support this important effort and to everyone who has made the effort to get their vaccine.

Everyone, who is 12 years of age or older is eligible to be vaccinated.

Also, beginning Monday of this week, anyone 80 years of age or older is now eligible to receive their second dose of vaccine.

Those residents 80 years of age and older, who received their 1<sup>st</sup> dose of Pfizer vaccine in one of the 9 city-operated vaccine clinics, now have the option of rescheduling their previously booked 2<sup>nd</sup> dose appointment into an earlier available appointment, if they so choose.

Eligible residents who wish to take advantage of the accelerated 2<sup>nd</sup> dose eligibility, can do so by accessing the "reschedule" link that is included in your appointment confirmation email that you received when you made your original appointment booking.

This link will take you into the Provincial Booking System, where you will be able to book an earlier available appointment of your choice.

You can also reschedule your appointment by calling the Provincial Call Centre at 1-833-943-3900.

As of this morning, there were approximately 4,000 available appointments in City-operated vaccine clinics for the remainder of this week.

Our clinics are nearly fully booked for the week of June 7, although there are still appointments available for the weeks of June 14, 21 and 28.

Between today and July 4, based on current vaccine allocations, there are approximately 74,000 appointments available in city-operated vaccine clinics.

I remind everyone that Astra-Zeneca vaccine is only available in Pharmacies and Primary Care Providers.

If you are 80 years of age or older, and received Astra-Zeneca as your 1<sup>st</sup> dose, please contact the Pharmacy or Primary Care provider where you received your first dose in order to schedule your accelerated 2<sup>nd</sup> dose.

I continue to encourage everyone, who is 12 years of age and older, to book your appointment to receive your 1<sup>st</sup> dose of COVID-19 vaccine as very soon as you are able.

Please go to [vaccineto.ca](https://vaccineto.ca) for vaccine opportunities that may exist in Team Toronto partner clinics.

For those active on social media, I also encourage you to follow Vaccine Hunters Canada on Twitter for additional information on opportunities to receive COVID-19 vaccine in Toronto.

We are experiencing an increasing number of "no-shows" in our city-operated vaccine clinics.

Over the course of last week's operations in city-operated clinics, the percentage of people who did not arrive for their scheduled appointment ranged from 1.8% to as high as 4.2%.

Our weekly "no-show" average increased to 3% last week.

Our team is continuing to monitor this situation closely and we are continuing to work with the Province to ensure that the Provincial Booking System is as robust as possible, in a collective effort to prevent no-shows and missed appointments.

While no doses of vaccine were wasted as a result of "no-shows", this does result in slower vaccine roll-out across our City.

Please ensure that you cancel your appointment, via the Provincial Booking System or the Provincial Call Centre, in the event that you will not be attending your scheduled appointment.

Finally, I would like to raise two important public safety issues this afternoon.

Over the course of the Victoria Day weekend, we experienced a number of issues relating to the discharge of fireworks.

I remind everyone that fireworks can only be discharged without a permit, from your own private property on Victoria Day and Canada Day.

A permit is needed to discharge fireworks on any other day of the year.

Fireworks may not be discharged in a City park, on a street, from a parking lot or from other people's private property.

Discharging or igniting fireworks in a City park or on a public beach is prohibited at all times.

Fireworks have the potential to cause serious injury and must be supervised by a responsible adult at all times.

Children and those under 18 years old are not permitted to discharge fireworks.

We are also experiencing a number of safety-related issues as a result of open-air burning.

Under the Ontario Fire Code, open air burning is not permitted anywhere in the City of Toronto, without a Permit authorized by Toronto Fire Services.

This includes bonfires, campfires, backyard fire pits, and the use of chimineas.

Bonfires are not permitted in City parks, on beaches or in public spaces.

Toronto Fire Services approves and issues permits for open air burning, in the city of Toronto, on a case by case basis and under very limited and controlled situations.

Open air burning can cause significant fire hazards, produce toxic fumes and chemicals, reduced visibility and increased odours.

Open air burning, such as the recent bonfires along the waterfront in recent weeks, pose a risk to the parks and the public.

I encourage anyone, who may have specific questions about open air burning, to contact our team at Toronto Fire Services, who will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

As we head into the summer months, your attention to these important matters will help to ensure a safe and enjoyable summer for everyone.

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.