

Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

June 16, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

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

At 08:00 this morning, we opened an additional 30,000 vaccine appointments, in City-operated clinics, between June 22 and June 27.

These additional appointments are the result of additional Moderna mRNA vaccine being allocated to us by the Province of Ontario.

Next week, the City of Toronto will receive 162,630 doses of the Pfizer mRNA vaccine.

60,102 doses have been allocated to city-operated clinics, 36,000 doses to the Sprint strategy and 66,528 doses to our Team Toronto partners.

Also next week, the City of Toronto will also receive 101,000 doses of the Moderna mRNA vaccine.

30,000 doses have been allocated to City-operated clinics, 20,000 to the Sprint strategy and 51,000 doses to our Team Toronto partners.

As Dr. de Villa explained, both Pfizer and Moderna are highly effective and safe mRNA vaccines that are able to be used interchangeably in adults.

The additional 30,000 appointments that have been opened within the Provincial Booking System, appear with the name of the clinic, followed by June 22-27, followed by the words "Adults 18+ only".

The reason for the inclusion of the wording "Adults 18+ only" is that everyone who books into one of these 30,000 appointments will receive Moderna mRNA vaccine.

At present, the Moderna mRNA vaccine has yet to be approved for administration in youth aged 12 to 17 in Canada.

As such, we have listed these appointments as being for Adults 18+ only.

These additional 30,000 appointments are available for both 1st and 2nd dose appointments.

As Dr. de Villa explained, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) has indicated that anyone who received a 1st dose of the Pfizer mRNA vaccine, can safely and confidently receive a 2nd dose of either the Pfizer or Moderna mRNA vaccine, and vice-versa, resulting in them being fully immunized against COVID-19.

The City will be contacting everyone who books into one of these 30,000 appointments in order to ensure that they are aware of the 18-plus age requirement.

Upon arrival at the clinic on the date of their scheduled appointment, our clinic staff will know which appointment slot each individual has booked into.

Each person will receive the vaccine associated with the appointment slot they selected.

There will not be an opportunity to select nor change the brand of mRNA vaccine that is administered at the clinic.

We are continuing to work with the Province of Ontario with respect to confirming vaccine allocations for July 5th and onward.

As soon as we have confirmation as to vaccine allocation for that time period, we will open additional appointments in City-operated clinics for the week of July 5th.

Beginning July 5 and thereafter, each City-operated vaccine clinic will administer both Pfizer and Moderna mRNA COVID-19 vaccines interchangeably, based on the availability and supply of vaccine.

Our collective ability to remain ahead of the Delta variant is largely dependent on our ability to get as many people fully vaccinated as possible, as quickly as possible.

Everyone, who is 12 years of age or older continues to be eligible to receive their 1st dose of vaccine.

The Province of Ontario has also made a number of groups of people eligible to receive an accelerated 2nd dose of vaccine.

The details on each of these groups can be found at [Toronto.ca/COVID-19](https://toronto.ca/COVID-19).

Anyone who received a first dose of mRNA vaccine, along with anyone who received a 1st dose of Astra-Zeneca vaccine who wishes to receive an mRNA vaccine as their 2nd dose, is eligible to book their 2nd dose appointment via the Provincial booking System, which is accessible from [Toronto.ca/COVID-19](https://toronto.ca/COVID-19).

If you prefer to either book or reschedule your appointment by phone, you can do so by calling the Provincial Call Centre at 1-833-943-3900.

If you received a first dose of the Astra Zeneca COVID-19 vaccine and you prefer to also receive a 2nd dose of the Astra Zeneca vaccine, please contact the pharmacy or primary care provider where you received your first dose.

Astra Zeneca vaccine is not allocated to City-operated vaccine clinics.

Both second-dose options for those who received their 1st dose of Astra Zeneca vaccine are safe and provide strong protection against COVID-19 and will count as a completed immunization series.

As of 12:30 this afternoon, there were 8,600 appointments remaining available, in City-operated vaccine clinics, between June 14 and July 4.

This includes appointments slots for both brands of mRNA vaccine.

For vaccine opportunities outside the network of city-operated clinics, please go to 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.

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.

I continue to encourage everyone, who is 12 years of age and older, and who has not yet received their 1st dose of COVID-19 vaccine, to book your appointment to receive your 1st dose of COVID-19 vaccine as very soon as you are able.

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.