

## Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

**July 28, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.**

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

In 2020, our Immunization Task Force began planning, for the eventual arrival of COVID-19 vaccines, long before vaccines had even been approved for use in Canada.

The Province originally asked us to be ready to commence vaccine clinic operations, in the City of Toronto, on April 1, 2021.

I remember well, taking a call from General Rick Hillier on New Year's Day 2021, when he asked if we could be ready to stand up the first proof-of-concept vaccine clinic before the end of January.

He also asked if our team would agree to develop and author the playbook for mass COVID-19 immunization clinic operations in Ontario, and to validate that playbook in our first proof of concept clinic.

At 1:30 in the afternoon on New Year's Day, our COVID-19 Strategic Command Team convened and our Immunization Task Force went to work the same day.

On January 18<sup>th</sup>, two and one half months early, we opened the first proof of concept vaccine clinic in the Metro Toronto Convention Centre and administered the very first doses of COVID-19 vaccine in Toronto.

The Provincial Mass Immunization Clinic playbook was completed and validated as requested, setting the stage for vaccine clinic operations across Ontario.

Since that time, the City has worked non-stop to administer more than a million of doses of COVID-19 vaccine in our City-operated mass immunization clinics.

Each and every day, as part of the network of Team Toronto vaccine clinics, we continue to administer thousands of doses of COVID-19 vaccine across Toronto.

To date, more than 4.2 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Toronto as part of our Team Toronto initiative.

This is a huge accomplishment when you consider that, even a year ago, COVID-19 vaccines didn't even exist.

I am extremely proud and thankful for all the City and Toronto Public Health staff, along with our Team Toronto partners, whose hard work and dedication have contributed to the success of these clinics and the achievement of this significant milestone in our COVID-19 response.

As Mayor Tory announced, we are now able to progress into the next phase of Toronto's COVID-19 vaccination program.

Shortly, we will begin to scale down a number of our City-operated vaccine clinics, in order to enable an increased focus on hyper-local mobile vaccine team deployment.

We are already hard at work planning the myriad of logistics required to make this happen in an organized and efficient manner.

Following the completion of scheduled clinic operations on Sunday August 22, we will close five of the nine City-operated mass immunization clinics, including:

- Carmine Stefano Community Centre,
- Malvern Community Centre,
- Mitchell Field Arena,
- North Toronto Memorial Community Centre, and
- Toronto Congress Centre.

The remaining four City-operated mass vaccine clinics will remain operational until further notice.

This includes the City-operated clinics located in:

- Cloverdale Mall,
- Metro Toronto Convention Centre,
- Scarborough Town Centre, and

- The Hangar.

Since Monday of this week, all first dose vaccinations, administered in City-operated clinics, have been by walk-in only.

Second dose appointments can be booked in advance through the provincial booking system, as well as by walk-in.

All nine City-operated vaccine clinics are offering walk-in vaccinations for anyone 12 years of age and older, who require either their 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

Our clinics are open to walk-ins every day from noon through 7:00 p.m.

Clients who receive their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine in a City-operated mass immunization clinic in August will be informed of their options on how to access and receive their second dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

We will continue to do all we can to support every Toronto resident in receiving their 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of vaccine as very soon as possible.

Our nine City-operated, mass vaccine clinics will continue to operate seven days per week across Toronto, between now and Sunday August 22.

I strongly encourage everyone who has not yet been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to get vaccinated without delay, in order to best protect yourself, and those around you, from this deadly virus and the highly contagious Delta variant.

There are thousands of doses of vaccine available each day in our clinics, and across the network of Team Toronto vaccine clinics.

Anyone who requires a second dose of COVID-19 vaccine can book a confirmed appointment, in any of the 9 City-operated vaccine clinics, until August 22, and the remaining 4 clinics thereafter.

Vaccine appointments can be booked either online via [Toronto.ca/COVID-19](https://toronto.ca/COVID-19) or by phone at 1-833-943-3900.

Finally, I am pleased to report that our COVID-19 Demobilization and Recovery Command Team is already up and running, with numerous initiatives and planning operations both underway and on track.

We are leading the development and implementation of comprehensive plans, ensuring that effective and responsive systems are in place as we transition into the post-pandemic phase of City operations.

Our team is also hard at work supporting and coordinating the City-wide post-COVID-19 recovery and restart efforts, in support of both City operations as well as in support of our business partners across Toronto.

We will continue to work alongside the City's Senior and Corporate Leadership teams to drive the completion of these objectives, as we put COVID-19 behind us once and for all.

As has been the case since we first implemented our COVID-19 Incident Management System, we continue to ensure that we have responsive, nimble and scalable plans in place should the situation change moving forward.

We are ready and able to again escalate our response operations, should the need arise.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge and thank the thousands of people who have, and continue to go above and beyond the call of duty each day, in service to our City.

And finally, I would like to thank our media partners for being our connection to more than 3 million people at what has now been 186 of these COVID-19 press conferences; along with every Toronto resident and business owner for enduring and absorbing so much, for listening to and following our advice, and for making the effort to get vaccinated.

It is as a result of your collective efforts that we are winning the battle against this pandemic, and I for one am deeply appreciative.

Thank you.