

Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

December 15, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Protocol Lounge, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W

Good afternoon.

From the first arrival of the COVID-19 virus in Canada, our incident management system has been responsive, nimble and scalable.

We have worked hard to ensure that we have effective plans in place and that we are able to respond efficiently and effectively as the COVID-19 situation evolves and changes.

Since before the arrival of the Omicron variant of concern in Toronto, our team has continued to be hard at work ensuring that we are prepared to implement whatever action is recommended by our Public Health professionals.

This, of course, includes the operation of our network of City-operated COVID-19 vaccine clinics.

We are continuing to operate 5 COVID-19 vaccine clinics, located across the City.

This includes clinics operating inside the:

- Metro Toronto Convention Centre;
- Cloverdale Mall;
- Scarborough Town Centre;
- Mitchell Field Arena, and the
- Woodbine Mall

Each of these clinics is presently operating from Tuesday through Friday, from 2:00-8:00 PM and on Saturdays from 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

In response to the emergence of the Omicron variant, I am pleased to advise that we have already increased the number of doses of COVID-19 vaccine available, across the network of City-operated clinics, and will continue to open additional appointments in the coming days.

Of course, this is in addition to the thousands of doses of vaccine that are available each day through our pharmacy, primary health care, Hospitals and Community Clinic partners.

On Monday of this week, we proactively opened approximately 100,000 additional appointments in City-operated vaccine clinics, with these appointments being available between Dec 15 and January 19.

These appointments are already live in the Provincial Booking System.

As of this morning, there were 12,844 adult appointments and 12,943 child vaccine appointments still available in City-operated clinics between today and Jan 19, so I encourage you to book your appointment today.

At present, City-operated vaccine clinics are operating by confirmed appointment only.

Appointments can be booked online by accessing [Toronto.ca/covid19](https://toronto.ca/covid19) and clicking the blue "book an appointment" button.

Those who prefer to book their appointment by phone can do by calling the Provincial Booking System Call centre 1-833-943-3900.

Tomorrow, we will open an additional 8,800 appointments in the Woodbine Mall clinic between Dec 21 and January 19.

Moving forward, we will also be opening additional appointments over the next number of days as we continue to expand clinic capacity as much as possible and as quickly as possible.

We will also transition to 7 day per week clinic operations as very soon as possible.

In total, we are increasing the capacity of City-operated vaccine clinics by approximately 72%.

Once these capacity increases have been fully implemented, we will be able to administer more than 41,000 doses of vaccine each week in City-operated vaccine clinics.

Both Pfizer and Moderna MRNA vaccines are available in all 5 city-operated clinics, including the vaccines for those between the ages of 5 and 11 years of age.

First, second and third booster doses are available, in accordance with the eligibility criteria established by the Province of Ontario.

In collaboration with our Team Toronto partners, there are a wide variety of opportunities to get vaccinated against COVID-19.

Getting fully vaccinated, and receiving your booster dose of vaccine once you are eligible, is one of the most important things you can do to protect yourself and those around you from COVID-19.

As the situation with COVID-19 continues to evolve, our COVID-19 Strategic Command Team will continue to work to ensure that we are doing all that can be done to save lives and prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our City, and to prevent our healthcare system from becoming overwhelmed.

Thank you for doing your part to help us win the battle against this virus.

Please continue to make [Toronto.ca/COVID19](https://toronto.ca/COVID19) your first choice for accurate, timely and reliable information on vaccinations, and the response to COVID-19 in Toronto.

Thank you.