



COVID-19 Vaccine Sequencing- Ottawa Public Health- January 15, 2021

Ottawa Public Health (OPH) follows the [provincial ethical framework](#) and priority sequence for COVID-19 vaccine distribution. The ethical framework is based on the principals of stewardship, trust, equity and transparency. The framework evaluates the patient population risk of exposure, the risk of severe disease or outcomes and health system capacity to ensure ongoing care to the population. There is a limited number of vaccines available and therefore the vaccine distribution framework helps guide decisions to ensure equitable distribution. A local Vaccine Sequence Strategy Task Force, which includes members from groups highly affected by COVID, such as newcomers, Indigenous, Black, older adult, and healthcare workers has been established to advise the City's Emergency Operations Centre on how to implement the sequence of vaccines given local context including maximizing uptake among groups sequenced ahead of others.

The Ottawa Hospital continues to receive vaccines from the Province to administer in accordance with the provincially mandated priority sequence groups for Phase 1. The City's Emergency Operations Centre is working with the hospital to ensure vaccine is used as soon as it is received, currently within the hospital clinic for second doses and by mobile teams vaccinating within long-term care and retirement homes and other congregate settings that provide care for seniors.

Hospitals have identified additional essential health care workers, such as emergency room and intensive care unit staff, those working on COVID-19 wards, paramedics and other frontline workers have also been receiving the vaccine at the hospital clinic.

At this point, Phase 1 populations to be immunized include residents, staff, essential caregivers (including family caregivers) and other employees in congregate living settings for seniors, health care workers, including hospital employees, staff who work or study in hospitals and health care personnel, adults in First Nations, Métis and Inuit populations and adult recipients of chronic home health care. The province has started to provide more guidance about how to sequence among health care workers.

The next phase of the vaccine rollout (Phase 2) will include older adults, beginning with those 80 and older and decreasing in five-year increments over the course of the vaccine rollout, people who live and work in high-risk congregate settings (for example, shelters, community living), frontline essential workers, including first responders, teachers and other education staff and the food processing industry and individuals with high-risk chronic conditions and their caregivers.

Given the planning assumptions relating to timelines and availability of vaccines and the roles of various partners and stakeholders, OPH will work together with the City's Emergency Operations Centre and do all that we can to ensure Ottawa residents who want to receive the COVID-19 vaccine will be able to access it as quickly and efficiently as possible. However, these plans are subject to change, and this reflects the current planning and situation at this time. The

total amount of vaccine that will be distributed to the City of Ottawa and precise delivery dates are not yet known. These decisions are made by the Province and subject to vaccine availability from the federal government.

It's important to note that it will be several months until a vaccine is available to the general public and receiving the vaccine does not mean an individual can stop any of the other prevention measures until we are clear about how effective the vaccines are at preventing COVID-19 transmission. We must all continue to do our part to reduce transmission of COVID-19 in the community: limit your close contacts to those within your household, practice physical distancing, wear a mask, wash your hands, stay home except for essential reasons and follow local and Provincial guidance.