

# Media Release



## **COVID-19 immunization clinics for long-term residents conclude February 1, 2021 - For immediate release**

The Timiskaming Health Unit (THU) is announcing that the immunization clinics for the first dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for long-term care have concluded. A total of 329 vaccine doses have been given to-date. The vaccine was offered to all residents and uptake was very high, with more than 90% of long-term care residents choosing to be immunized.

“Seniors often have high vaccine uptake, since they have lived through illnesses like polio and measles and have experienced firsthand how vaccines can make such a positive difference,” said Dr. Glenn Corneil, Acting Medical Officer of Health and CEO for THU. “We have worked closely with long-term care homes to protect the people who are most vulnerable to COVID-19 and are pleased to have wrapped up immunizations for residents ahead of the province’s initial February 5 target.”

To prevent wastage of vaccine in open vials, a few staff also received their first vaccine dose. Ethical guidelines were used to prioritize which staffed were offered a vaccine.

Vaccinated residents and staff will receive their second dose of the Moderna vaccine 28 days after initial immunization.

The health unit has responsibility for the local implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination program. The Government of Ontario is leading the overall provincial COVID-19 immunization strategy and has identified who will get the vaccine first. Public health will be working closely with partners as vaccine supply becomes available to identify priority groups to receive early vaccination as part of the next stage of Phase 1 of *Ontario’s Vaccine Distribution Implementation Plan*. This plan includes residents, essential caregivers, and staff of congregate care settings for seniors; health care workers; adults in First Nations, Métis, and Inuit populations; and adult recipients of chronic home health care.

The province of Ontario is currently in lockdown. District residents need to stay home except for essential travel and especially need to avoid social gatherings.

District residents are reminded to:

- Continue practicing physical distancing
- Wear a mask or face covering in public indoor spaces
- Wash hands with soap and warm water or use alcohol based sanitizers and do not touch your face
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow
- Gatherings with people outside of your household are prohibited under lockdown
- Avoid non-essential travel within and outside of our district, especially to high transmission areas
- Stay home if unwell and contact your local Assessment Centre (AC) to schedule an appointment for testing
- Respect public health and any additional safety measures businesses have put in place
- Reach out to vulnerable people in your community who may need support

For more information on COVID-19, visit [www.timiskaminghu.com](http://www.timiskaminghu.com) and the [Ontario Coronavirus website](#). For more information on COVID-19 vaccines, visit THU’s [COVID-19 vaccine page](#).

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