

Media Release



COVID-19 immunization clinics for Temagami First Nation residents conclude

March 4, 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 Temagami First Nation have concluded. Virginia McKenzie was the first person to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in the community. The vaccine was offered to all residents and uptake was very high. The total doses given to-date in Timiskaming district is 868.

To prevent wastage of vaccine in open vials, some clinic staff also received their first vaccine dose. Ethical guidelines were used to prioritize which staff were offered a vaccine. Vaccinated individuals will receive their second dose of the Moderna vaccine following provincial guidance.

“We are pleased that Temagami First Nation residents have received their first vaccine doses of the Moderna vaccine,” said Dr. Glenn Corneil, Acting Medical Officer of Health for Timiskaming Health Unit. “TFN residents on Bear Island may have delays to accessing services, including health care, due to the remoteness of their community, and immunizations are an important step towards protection from COVID-19.”

The health unit has the 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. As per ministry guidelines, the next groups scheduled to be vaccinated between this month and early April are: alternate level of care patients in hospitals; highest priority health care workers; residents, staff, and caregivers in retirement homes and other care settings for seniors (for example, assisted living); other priority health care workers; all other on- and off-reserve Indigenous adults; adults 80 years of age and older; and adult chronic home care clients.

We are currently not booking vaccinations. *Please avoid calling to schedule vaccinations at this time* and wait for further direction from the Timiskaming Health Unit or your healthcare provider for next steps. For more details or to find out how health care workers are prioritized, visit www.timiskaminghu.com or call us at 1-866-747-4305, Ext. 7.

District residents are reminded to follow public health measures:

- 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
- Avoid gatherings with people outside of your household
- Avoid non-essential travel outside of our district, especially to high transmission areas
- Stay home if you feel sick 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 and the [Ontario Coronavirus website](#).

- 30 -

Photo attached. Caption: Temagami First Nation community member Virginia McKenzie was pleased to be the first person to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in the community.

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