

Media Release



First residents of Timiskaming district receive COVID-19 vaccine Wednesday, January 27, 2021 - For immediate release

Timiskaming Health Unit (THU) is excited to announce that the first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine were administered in our district yesterday afternoon. The first two people to be given the vaccine were married couple Alphege Charbonneau and Therese Charbonneau, both residents at Extendicare Tri-Town in Haileybury.

“Yesterday was a major landmark for our district’s COVID-19 response,” said Dr. Glenn Corneil, Acting Medical Officer of Health and CEO for THU. “When we get the vaccine into the arms of long-term care home residents, we protect those most vulnerable to COVID-19.”

THU is collaborating with long-term care facilities to immunize residents of all long-term care homes across the district and to meet the provincial expectation that residents receive their first dose by February 5.

The health unit has the overall 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 and the [Ontario Coronavirus website](#). For more information on COVID-19 vaccines, visit THU’s [COVID-19 vaccine page](#).

Photo attached. Caption: At Extendicare Tri-Town, Administrator and Director of Care Carol Johnson and Nurse Practitioner Joanne Presseault administer the district's first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to long-term care residents and married couple Alphege Charbonneau and Therese Charbonneau.

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