

Media Release



Timiskaming Health Unit moves forward with vaccination rollout plan

February 26, 2021 - For immediate release

By the end of this week, long-term care residents in Timiskaming district will have received both their first and second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, as immunization clinics continue across the district.

The Moderna vaccine was offered to all residents and uptake was very high, with more than 90% of long-term care residents choosing to be immunized. To prevent vaccine waste of open vials, a few staff were also immunized. Ethical guidelines were used to prioritize which staff were offered a vaccine. Of all of the vaccine doses given to date, no Adverse Events Following Immunization (side effects) were reported.

"We were able to mobilize staff quickly at the end of January to ensure all residents of long-term care homes received their first dose," said Dr. Glenn Corneil, Acting Medical Officer of Health for Timiskaming Health Unit (THU). "We are pleased to know that our most vulnerable residents are now protected against COVID-19."

THU is also working with Temagami First Nation, who is holding clinics for the first dose of the Moderna vaccine next week. Adults in First Nations, Métis, and Inuit communities are part of Phase 1 of the province's vaccine rollout plan. The timing of the vaccination clinic also considered when the ice road to Bear Island would be open.

The Government of Ontario is leading the overall provincial COVID-19 immunization while each health unit is responsible for local implementation. Locally, plans are underway to immunize the next groups which include: staff and essential caregivers in long-term care homes, high priority health care workers, Indigenous adults, adults 80+, and adult chronic home care patients. THU plans to achieve this by early-April. However, the immunization schedule depends on vaccine supply. Attached is a document detailing anticipated vaccination timelines for our local phase 1 rollout.

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 -

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