



# COVID-19 Update

**Date:** Wednesday, January 6, 2021

**To:** Everyone at HHS

**From:** Rob MacIsaac, President and CEO

**Subject:** **Vaccination of hospital healthcare workers – pre-register now**

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Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS) and St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton (SJHH) are working tirelessly in collaboration with the Provincial Government and Hamilton Public Health to ensure that our frontline healthcare workers get prompt access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Our highest priority is ensuring vaccine distribution occurs as quickly as possible.

The provincial government's goal is to have all Ontario hospital healthcare workers (staff, physicians and residents and learners) vaccinated by the end of March 2021. The distribution plan being enacted jointly by HHS and SJHH will accomplish this goal in Hamilton, based on anticipated vaccine supplies.

Following provincial government direction, local efforts are underway to further accelerate the vaccination of hospital healthcare workers using all available stock of the Pfizer vaccine in our possession immediately, without reservation of second doses. This strategy could lead to delays in the administration of second doses, by a few days, or possibly longer.

Second doses are dependent on vaccine supply. Our goal remains to vaccinate everyone within the required 21 day timeframe, and we are working directly with the province to minimize this from happening.

To date, in accordance with government direction, the very first wave of vaccine distribution in Hamilton has been focused on staff of long-term care (LTC) and retirement home (RH) settings, to help stabilize this workforce. Beginning January 7, there will be a significant increase in the scheduled vaccination of hospital staff, physicians, residents and learners at both HHS and SJHH, while continuing to also provide vaccines to LTC and RH staff.

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It's important to note that everyone who wishes to get the vaccine will. An ethical sequencing process has been established by the provincial government to ensure equitable access to the vaccine for all hospital healthcare workers.

Sequencing will occur in this order:

- Group 1: those at highest risk of COVID exposure at work
- Group 2: those working with vulnerable patients at high risk
- Group 3: those working in all other clinical areas (patient facing)
- Group 4: all other hospital workers.

**We ask that you follow the [instructions here](#) and pre-register now to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. [More information is available](#) and will continue to be updated.**

I thank all teams across HHS and SJHH, and our partners at Hamilton Public Health, who have made this possible. It is a very important step forward in the fight that we have all have been leading against this pandemic. Progress updates will be provided as we proceed.

Rob

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