

COVID-19 UPDATE

Keeping You Safe



To: All Staff and Professional Staff

From: Hospital Health Care Worker Vaccine Prioritization Committee

Date: February 18, 2021

RE: **COVID-19 Vaccination: Staff prioritization update**

Beginning today, Thursday, February 18th, 2021, Phase 1 of the COVID-19 vaccine distribution will expand to include hospital health care workers and active credentialed staff.

The health and safety of all staff, professional staff, patients, and the community is our utmost priority. As vaccine supply remains limited, immunization of hospital staff must be rolled-out in phases over the next few weeks/months based on a fair, prioritized allocation list in alignment with the province's vaccine distribution plan (see References below).

As of now, the first phase of staff vaccination includes the following areas:

- COVID-19 Units (3A)
- Transitional Care Unit
- Respiratory Therapy
- Emergency Department (including Mental Health Assessment Team and Sexual Assault/Domestic Violence)
- ICU, MET (Code Blue Response)
- OR, PACU, Anaesthesia
- Endoscopy
- Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
- Renal Dialysis Centre (Includes hemodialysis and Peritoneal Dialysis)

If you are a **client/patient-facing staff member** in one of these areas (you provide direct, frequent, or sustained client/patient care and are **not** administrative staff/able to work from home and/or remotely) and would like to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, **the vaccination clinic will contact your department lead with appointment booking information.**

Prior to booking your vaccine appointment, staff included in the first phase (as identified above) will have the option to self-declare any of the following *high-risk medical conditions:

- Age >60
- Body Mass Index >35 (To calculate BMI: <https://www.diabetes.ca/static/bmi-calculator.html>)
- Diabetes Mellitus
- Pregnancy

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- Heart Conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
- COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)
- Cancer
- Down Syndrome
- Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system)
- Sickle Cell Disease

**Please note: This is list was agreed upon based on the evidence provided within the three reports referenced below.*

Self-declaration is voluntary. Self-reporting of risk factors may increase your prioritization within your assigned group and by adding your name to the on-call list for daily vaccine dose surpluses. The reason for your self-declaration is confidential and will not be shared with your manager. This information will only be disclosed to IT/IS custodian.

To self-declare, please use the following link: <http://vaccine-selfdeclaration.tbh.net/>

Once your department has been prioritized and your appointment has been booked, please note the following:

- Bring your health card to your appointment.
- You can only book one appointment, second dose appointments will be scheduled following first dose appointment, approximately 35 days apart.
- The appointment in your name cannot be transferred to another individual.
- Do not bring a colleague or a family member to your appointment. This vaccine opportunity is for hospital workers and credentialed staff who have an appointment. No drop-ins are allowed.
- Once you have received the vaccine, please forward a copy of the receipt of the COVID-19 vaccine to Occupational Health & Safety. You can send a hard copy through inter hospital mail or via email to ohs@tbh.net. The Occupational Health & Safety Department will update your immunization records accordingly.

To receive the vaccine, you should not have been previously infected with COVID-19, are not currently under self-isolation as a case of COVID-19, or currently a high-risk contact of a positive case of COVID-19. At this time, the vaccine is not indicated for people who:

1. Are pregnant or breastfeeding;
2. Are under 16 years of age;
3. Are immunosuppressed due to disease or treatment;
4. Have received any other vaccine in the last 14 days.

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Should you fall into one of the groupings listed above but still wish to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, you will be requested to provide informed consent that you have had these discussions with your family physician prior to receiving the vaccine.

The COVID-19 vaccine is an important tool to help stop the spread of the virus and protect your health, as well as the health of all those around you. **Although the vaccine is voluntary, all staff and professional staff are highly encouraged to get immunized once it is your turn to do so.**

The situation regarding COVID-19 vaccines is rapidly evolving. Based on provincial direction, plans may shift at any given time with little notice. Your safety is paramount. Our Hospital continues to advocate for increased supply of the vaccine, and for assurance that all health care workers will be vaccinated in a timely manner within Phase 1. Specific timeframes for when/how each department will be prioritized are still in development and further updates regarding the next group will be provided as decisions are made.

Thank you for your patience and understanding throughout this process. Your ongoing commitment to safety is much appreciated.

Please contact your manager with any questions or concerns.

All Hospital COVID-19 updates are also available on the iNtranet at <https://comms.tbrhsc.net/covid-19-information/>.

References:

1. Ministry of Health. (Version 1.0 – January 8, 2021). COVID-19: Guidance for prioritizing Health Care Workers for COVID-19 Vaccination. Retrieved from http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/Guidance_for_Prioritizing_HCW_covid19_vaccination_2020-01-08.pdf
2. Alberta Health Services. (August 21, 2020). COVID-19 Scientific Advisory Group rapid Evidence Report. Retrieved from <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/ppih/if-ppih-covid-19-sag-risk-factors-for-severe-covid-19-outcomes-rapid-review.pdf>
3. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. (February 3, 2021). People with Certain medical Conditions. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>
4. Public Health Ontario. (July 31, 2020). Tobacco and Covid-19 – What We Know So Far. Retrieved from <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/covid-wksf/2020/08/what-we-know-tobacco-covid.pdf?la=en>
5. Government of Canada. (December 8, 2020). People who are at risk of more severe disease or outcomes from COVID-19. Retrieved from <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/people-high-risk-for-severe-illness-covid-19.html>