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**SUBJECT:** Local COVID-19 Vaccination Program  
**Date:** January 29, 2021  
**Pages:** 2  
**To:** Physicians, hospitals, long-term care and retirement homes  
**From:** Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health

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Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health will receive 50% of the expected **Pfizer** vaccine delivery the week of February 1, 2021. As of this week, Public Health does not have a confirmed expected date to receive additional Pfizer vaccines but are anticipating a similar amount the following week.

To accommodate this unexpected gap in vaccine deliveries, the province is adjusting the schedule for second doses and as a result the vaccine rollout plan is as follows:

- **Prioritizing the completion of first dose vaccinations for all long-term care and retirement home residents.**
- **Pausing any further first dose vaccinations.**
  - Those who had their appointments cancelled will be contacted directly when appointments begin again.
- **Prioritizing second dose vaccinations for residents of long-term care and retirement homes.**
  - Residents will receive their second dose within the recommended 21 days (Pfizer) or 28 days (Moderna) based on the vaccine they received initially. These vaccinations will begin February 4.
- **Prioritizing second dose vaccinations for all others who have received their first dose.**
  - For those that received Pfizer, second doses will be administered approximately 35 days after the first dose. For those that received Moderna, second doses will be administered approximately 28 days following the first dose.
  - Public Health will contact those who are eligible to arrange an appointment and provide instructions for when and where to get their second dose. Appointments will begin starting February 10. Unfortunately, due to the volume of individuals requiring second doses, Public Health will not be able to accommodate specific time and date requests for these appointments.

WDGPH continues to receive Moderna vaccine on schedule with an anticipated 3700 doses to arrive Friday February 5th. This vaccine will be required to complete second doses for those who received the first dose.

### **Recommendations regarding the timing of the second dose**

Both vaccines require two doses for full protection. Although it is ideal to provide the second dose as per manufacturers' recommendations (which is 21 days for Pfizer and 28 days for Moderna), the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) supports extending that time frame for up to 42 days where vaccine supply is limited.

The British Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation reports that short-term vaccine efficacy from the first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is calculated at around 90%. Based on the phase 3 study results, most of the vaccine failures occurred shortly after vaccination, suggesting that short-term protection from dose 1 is very high from day 10 after vaccination. The protection after the first dose is not expected to decline significantly if the second dose is delayed. Full protection (about 95%) starts at about 1 week after the second dose. If the second Pfizer dose is delayed beyond 21 days, it is still expected that the second dose will give close to full protection.

### **References**

National Advisory Committee on Immunization. Recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccines. [Internet]. 2021 Jan 12. Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/recommendations-use-covid-19-vaccines.html>

UK Department of Health & Social Care - Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). Optimising the COVID-19 vaccination programme for maximum short-term impact. [Internet]. 2021 Jan 26. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prioritising-the-first-covid-19-vaccine-dose-jcvi-statement/optimising-the-covid-19-vaccination-programme-for-maximum-short-term-impact>

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