

## **COVID-19 Vaccine Bulletin #4**

### **WDGPH Vaccine Planning & Ministry of Health Guidance**

The purpose of the Vaccine Bulletin is to give you the latest information about COVID-19 vaccines. For this bulletin, we will focus on Wellington-Dufferin Guelph Public Health's planning for vaccines, and some of the new Ministry of Health guidance document on vaccines. The next bulletin will address WDG area vaccine distribution.

### **Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) is Ready for Vaccines**

WDGPH has been planning and preparing for COVID-19 vaccines since July 2020. Part of this plan was a process to safely and efficiently receive, store, and administer COVID-19 vaccines as they are approved and available. The vaccine will initially be offered at our Guelph office and then at other locations depending on vaccine type and availability.

#### **Storage**

- One ultra-low freezer was installed on December 15 at our Guelph site and is maintaining stable temperatures. It has the capacity to hold almost 100,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine. A second unit will be arriving within the next two weeks which can safely store a further 100,000 doses of vaccine, giving WDGPH the ability to store a total of almost 200,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccine.
- WDGPH has additional vaccine freezers, and 12 purpose-built vaccine refrigerators located in three offices (Guelph, Fergus and Orangeville) with the capacity to hold close to 1 million vaccine doses (depending on how it is packaged). This is more than sufficient meet the storage requirements for any COVID-19 vaccine that we might receive for our population of 330,000 people.

#### **Administration**

- WDGPH has procured all necessary supplies to administer tens of thousands of doses of the vaccine in our community. This includes the required PPE, syringes, needles, disposal units and other clinical supplies.
- WDGPH has prepared to deliver mass vaccination clinics in the COVID-19 environment. While responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, WDGPH was able to safely administer the influenza vaccine to thousands of residents in our three geographic locations. We will apply these same strategies to administering COVID-19 vaccine.

#### **Partners & Future Sites**

- WDGPH will collaborate over the next 6 months with local hospitals, OHTs, FHTs, Primary Care Providers and congregate settings for comprehensive vaccine delivery strategies.

- We are actively exploring another available site that would allow the vaccine to be provided within the County of Wellington when the second ultra-low freezer arrives. This will allow better access for all our residents to vaccine requiring ultra low temperature storage.

## Ministry of Health Guidance on Vaccines

### ***General Information***

#### **COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine**

- The purpose of this document is to provide answers to many of the frequently asked questions about the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine including how it works, who should/should not take the vaccine, how to prepare for the appointment, and what side effects to expect.

### ***Health Care Provider Education***

#### **COVID-19 Vaccine Availability and Rollout**

- The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the COVID-19 vaccine availability and roll-out plan for Canada including who will be prioritized, which vaccines are under review, and how many doses have been ordered.

#### **COVID-19 About Vaccines**

- The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of COVID-19 vaccines with a focus on Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine including how different types of vaccines work, clinical trial details, side effects and a few FAQs.

#### **COVID-19 Administration of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine**

- The purpose of this document is to give health care providers an overview of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine including its specifications, who should not receive the vaccine, its side effects, adverse events following immunization, point-of-care guidance, vaccine preparation, vaccine administration, and its storage, stability and disposal.

#### **COVID-19 Vaccine Approval Process and Safety**

- The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of Health Canada's expedited review approval process for the COVID-19 vaccines and how vaccine safety is determined.

**Additional MOH Guidance Documents are pending.**

## Reporting an Adverse Event Following COVID-19 Immunization

Please do your part to [monitor for adverse events](#). Health care providers (i.e., physicians, nurses and pharmacists) are required by law to report an adverse event following immunization (AEFI).

Similar to reports for other vaccines, reports of AEFIs for COVID-19 vaccine should be made using the Ontario [AEFI Reporting Form](#) and sent to your local public health unit. The AEFI reporting form has been updated to include adverse events of special interest for COVID-19 vaccine.

## Ontario's Vaccine Distribution Plan Continues to Evolve

Phase	Description	Timeline
<b>Phase 1A</b>	Two pilot sites (University Health Network in Toronto and Ottawa Hospital) received doses of the Pfizer vaccine. These doses are being given to Long Term Care (LTC) and high risk Retirement Home (RH) staff and at risk hospital workers who provide care in select locations.	Week of December 14, 2020
<b>Phase 1B</b>	Approximately 88,000 doses of Pfizer BioNTech vaccine delivered to 19 hospital sites and 2 non-hospital sites. These doses will be given to staff in LTC and high-risk RHs, essential caregivers and staff in other congregate settings caring for seniors. Any extra vaccine doses will be given to at risk hospital workers.	December 2020 to early January 2021
<b>Phase 1C</b>	Additional sites will begin providing the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine in Grey-Lockdown and Red-Control zones. The vaccine will continue to be available to LTC and high-risk RH staff, essential caregivers and staff in other congregate settings caring for seniors and also include long-term care home and retirement home residents, and urban Indigenous communities. Healthcare workers in hospital settings followed by community healthcare workers to receive vaccine	January to February 2021
<b>Phase 2</b>	Vaccinations will be expanded to essential workers, older adults stratified by age and those with high-risk chronic conditions.	April 2021
<b>Phase 3</b>	Vaccines will be available for anyone who wishes to be immunized	June 2021

For more details: [covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccines-ontario](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccines-ontario)

## Reliable Sources of Information on Vaccines

[Public Health Agency of Canada](#)

[Government of Ontario](#)

[Public Health Ontario](#)

[Pfizer-BioNTech](#)

[Centre for Effective Practice \(CEP\)](#)

[World Health Organization](#)

[COVID-19 Studies from the World Health Organization Database](#)

[CDC](#)