

# COVID-19 VACCINE NEWS BRIEF

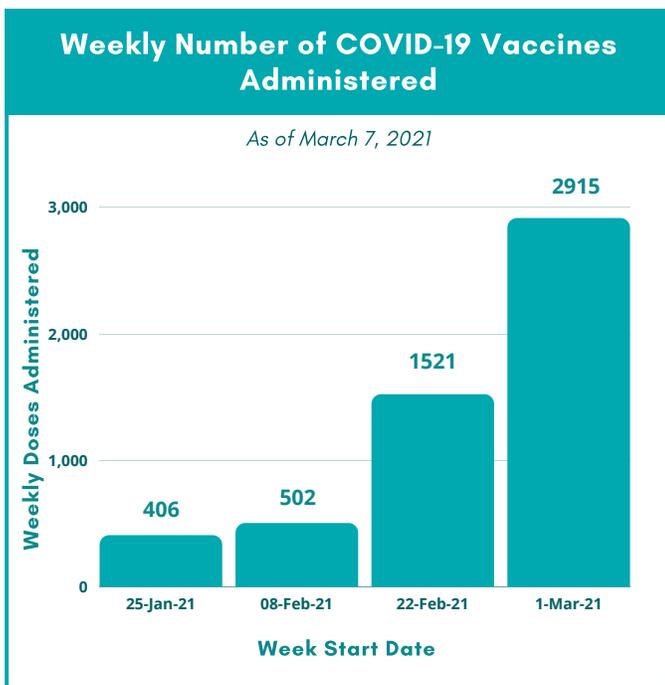
MARCH 10, 2021 | EDITION 3



Deep River clinic: James Elliott, RN providing vaccination to Courtney Dennie, RPN

## Local Update

As of March 7, 2021, a total of **5,344** doses of the COVID-19 vaccine have already been administered through one of several COVID-19 vaccination clinics.



In alignment with phase one of the provincial distribution framework, those doses were given to long-term care (LTC) residents, staff and essential caregivers, priority retirement home staff and residents, as well as prioritized healthcare workers. The delivery of second doses to LTC residents is also continuing.

A targeted rollout to the next priority groups is now taking place. Those who are eligible for this next group of scheduled clinics will receive direct notification. These priority groups include: Retirement Home residents (who will be vaccinated in-home by mobile vaccination teams), Retirement Home essential caregivers, residents in the general population who are 80 years of age and older, and Indigenous residents (on or off reserve) who are 55 years of age and older.

Those who are eligible will receive direct notification in regards to accessing vaccination clinics across RCD in five local areas: Pembroke, Deep River, Arnprior, Renfrew and Barry's Bay.

# Highlights

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**1.** As vaccine rollout continues to evolve, the **RCD COVID-19 Vaccine Communications Committee** will release all key information to the public through this weekly COVID-19 Vaccine News Brief and other multi-media channels.

**2.** **Priority/eligible groups will be notified through various multi-media channels** including public service announcements, that they are eligible to receive the vaccine. Please note that this does not mean that individuals will receive a direct phone call or email. It will be announced at a broader level and it is the responsibility of individuals to access that information and book appointments through appropriate channels.

**3.** **An online, centralized, vaccine booking system referred to as the Renfrew County and District COVID-19 Vaccine Registration System, is now live for residents to access.** Vaccine appointments are currently available for residents in the general population who are 80 years of age and older and Indigenous residents (on or off reserve) who are 55 years of age and older. Those individuals who are currently eligible for vaccination can visit RCDHU's website at: [www.rcdhu.com](http://www.rcdhu.com) to register online as this is often quicker. Individuals are encouraged to ask a family member or friend to assist if they are unable to do so themselves. If a person is unable to register online, they can call RCDHU at 613-735-9724 or 1-800-267-1097 extension 200. Residents are asked to only leave one message with their name and phone number, and someone will return their call as soon as possible.

**4.** We are asking residents to **be patient** during this time, as we understand that everyone is anxious to have their turn. Be assured that based on the stable supply of the vaccine, there will be enough for everyone to get both doses as prescribed. Information on timelines and vaccine rollout will continue to be communicated as it becomes available.

**5.** Please also be reminded that dates and timelines are **subject to change** which is why it is important that everyone monitor the communication channels regularly.

**6.** Please note that vaccine shipments vary for each public health region; as such, some regions can progress in vaccinating different populations at a faster rate.



**Top:** St. Francis Memorial Hospital, Emergency Department RN, Christina Szczygiel was the first staff member to receive the COVID-19 vaccine from Shirley Hill, RN **Bottom:** COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic held at Renfrew Victoria Hospital

# Provincial Update

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On March 5, the Ontario government announced that it is preparing to move into Phase Two of its COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan in April, with a focus on vaccinating populations based on age and risk. During Phase Two, groups that will receive the vaccine include:

- Older adults between 60-79 years of age;
- Individuals with specific health conditions and some primary caregivers;
- People who live and work in congregate settings and some primary caregivers;
- People who live in hot spots with high rates of death, hospitalizations and transmission; and
- Certain workers who cannot work from home.

Ontario is expecting to vaccinate these groups from April to July 2021, depending on availability of vaccines from the federal government. For full details visit: [Ontario Ready to Rollout Phase Two of COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan](#) or [Populations Eligible for Phase Two COVID-19 Vaccination](#).

Starting March 10, the Ontario Government is extending the vaccination dose interval for Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD for up to 16 weeks as per National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommendations. This will allow Ontario to rapidly accelerate its vaccine rollout and maximize the number of people receiving their first dose of the vaccine.

# Federal Update

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On March 5, 2021, Health Canada approved the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine manufactured by Johnson and Johnson. Unlike the other three vaccines which, require two doses, this vaccine is the first single-dose vaccine authorized in Canada to prevent COVID-19. Similar to the Astra Zeneca vaccine, the Janssen vaccine is a viral vector-based vaccine.

The Johnson and Johnson vaccine is indicated for use in adults 18 years of age and older and has an overall efficacy of 66%, when given according to the authorized dosing regimen (single-dose). Visit Health Canada's [Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine product description](#) for full details.

Additionally, the NACI has provided recommendation to extend the vaccination dose interval up to 16 weeks for the three, two-dose vaccines currently approved by Health Canada while while maintaining a strong and sustained level of protection from COVID-19.



## RCDHU Resources



- > [February COVID-19 Vaccine Key Messages](#)
- > [COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution and Administration Plan \(February 12, 2021\)](#)
- > [COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution and Administration Plan Summary \(February 12, 2021\)](#)
- > [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) about the COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- > [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) about the COVID-19 Vaccine for Healthcare Workers](#)
- > [RCDHU Website - Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - 1. COVID-19 Vaccine Information](#)
- > [RCDHU Website - Immunization - COVID-19 Vaccine Information](#)
- > [RCDHU Website - News](#)

## Additional Government Resources



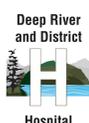
- > [Government of Ontario Link - COVID-19 vaccines for Ontario](#)
- > [Government of Ontario Link - COVID-19 vaccine safety](#)
- > [Government of Ontario Link - Getting a COVID-19 vaccine in Ontario](#)
- > [Government of Ontario Link - Ontario Releases Ethical Framework for COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution](#)
- > [Government of Ontario Link - COVID-19 Vaccination Recommendations for Special Populations](#)
- > [Government of Canada Link - What you need to know about the COVID-19 vaccine for Canada](#)
- > [Government of Canada Link - Vaccines and treatments for COVID-19: Progress](#)
- > [Government of Canada Link - Vaccine development and approval in Canada infographic](#)
- > [Government of Canada Video Link - COVID-19: How vaccines are developed](#)

## Partner Websites

- > [Renfrew County and District Health Unit](#)
- > [Algonquins of Pikwakanagan First Nation](#)
- > [Arnprior Regional Health](#)
- > [Arnprior and District Family Health Team](#)
- > [County of Renfrew](#)
- > [St. Francis Memorial Hospital](#)
- > [County of Renfrew Paramedic Service](#)
- > [Deep River and District Hospital](#)
- > [Pembroke Regional Hospital](#)
- > [Renfrew Victoria Hospital](#)



Renfrew County and District Health Unit  
"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"



Arnprior & District  
Family Health Team

