

Durham Region Health Department FAX about...



For Health Care Professionals

## **COVID-19 Vaccine Update #1**

At this time, there is limited supply of COVID-19 vaccine in Durham Region. The Durham Region Health Department (DRHD) does not yet have any vaccine. The provincial government is leading the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines through a three-phased distribution plan. In Durham Region, the COVID-19 Vaccine Steering Table (with representation from DRHD, acute care and primary care) is planning for vaccine distribution and administration for residents according to the provincial plan, provincial ethical framework, and vaccine availability.

We are in Phase 1 of the provincial plan and Phase 2 is anticipated to start sometime in March 2021. Phase 1 currently includes residents of long-term care homes and high-risk retirement homes. We anticipate that vaccine will be available to primary care providers in their offices to vaccinate patients during Phase 3 when the COVID-19 vaccine will be more widely available.

For more information about Ontario's distribution plan and which individuals are included in different Phases, please see the provincial website <a href="https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccines-ontario">https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccines-ontario</a>.

Once vaccine is available at the health department, information regarding where residents and health care providers can be vaccinated will be provided to you. Communication will occur through our usual channels to health care providers (e.g. Fax Abouts), providing public information to local media outlets, and through our COVID-19 vaccine webpage <a href="http://www.durham.ca/covidvaccines">www.durham.ca/covidvaccines</a>.

For clients who would like more information about the COVID-19 vaccine and the vaccine rollout in Durham, please direct them to <u>www.durham.ca/covidvaccines</u>.

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