



COVID-19 VACCINE NEWS BRIEF

FEBRUARY 19, 2021 | EDITION 1



Purpose

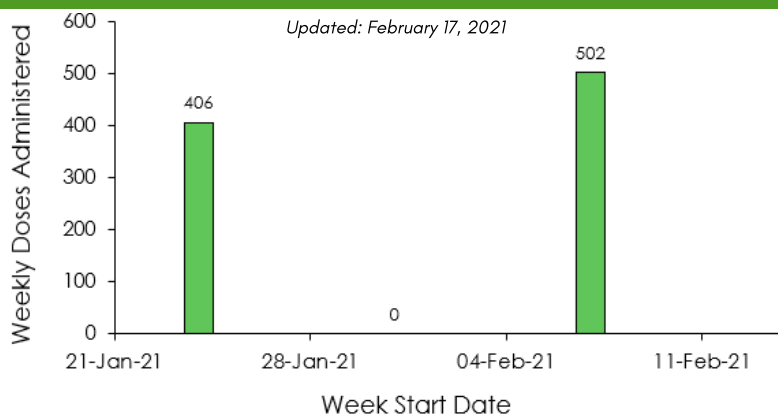
The purpose of the COVID-19 Vaccine News Brief is to provide regular updates on the progress and status of the COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout in Renfrew County and District (RCD).

Moving forward, this news brief will include local data; Ministry guidance and requirements; and updates from community partners. The news brief will also provide additional local and government resources as they become available.

Local Update

All long-term care (LTC) residents in RCD who wanted a vaccine, have received one. To date, Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) in collaboration with partners have successfully completed COVID-19 vaccination clinics in all 10 LTC homes and one high-risk retirement home, and provided first vaccinations to 908 people.

Weekly Number of COVID-19 Vaccines Administered





Local Update

On February 14, 2021, the Province of Ontario released strict guidelines for vaccine prioritization which we will be following closely. The material is posted on our website and you can stay tuned to RCDHU's COVID-19 Vaccine News Brief for weekly progress reports.

Moving forward, RCDHU is anticipating additional vaccine in the next few weeks to complete the second dose for long-term care residents, and to initiate vaccination of LTC health care workers and essential caregivers.

In the meantime, RCDHU continues to work with key community partners in the local planning and implementation of the COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout. "This will ensure that we are ready to administer vaccinations quickly once vaccine becomes available," states Dr. Robert Cushman, Acting Medical Officer of Health, RCDHU.

If you are unsure about whether you should be receiving a vaccine due to a pregnancy or are breastfeeding, have allergies or autoimmune conditions or are immunocompromised, or have other questions regarding children and adolescents, please review this link to [Ontario's COVID-19 Vaccination Recommendations for Special Populations](#).

Please note that there is no need to add your name to a list. There will be general messaging from RCDHU about who is/will be next to receive the vaccine. Stay tuned!

Provincial Update

In light of the unexpected reduction in supply of vaccines from the federal government, Ontario has had to make adjustments to its vaccination plan. Given the expected gradual increase in Ontario's vaccine supply, the next target groups within the Phase One priority populations have been identified for vaccination.

Immediate priority for first-dose vaccination:

- Staff and essential caregivers in long-term care homes, high-risk retirement homes and First Nations elder care homes, and any residents of these settings that have not yet received a first dose of the vaccine.
- Alternative level of care patients in hospitals who have a confirmed admission to a long-term care home, retirement home or other congregate care home for seniors.
- Highest Priority health care workers, followed by Very High Priority health care workers, in accordance with the ministry of Health's guidance on Health Care Worker Prioritization.

Next priority for first-dose vaccination:

When all reasonable steps have been taken to complete first-dose vaccinations for the populations mentioned above, vaccinations may be made available to the remainder of for the Phase One populations:

- Adults 80 years of age and older
- Staff, residents and caregivers in retirement homes and other congregate care settings for seniors (e.g., assisted living)
- Health care workers in the High Priority Level, and in accordance with the Ministry of Health's guidance on Health Care Worker Prioritization
- All Indigenous adults
- Adult recipients of chronic home care

RCDHU Resources



- > [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](#)