



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

For Immediate Release

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COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics Completed in Renfrew County and District Long-Term Care Homes

Today, Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) is reporting good news for residents of Renfrew County and District (RCD) in the fight against COVID-19. All long-term care (LTC) residents in RCD who wanted a vaccine, have received one. To date, RCDHU in collaboration with partners have successfully completed COVID-19 vaccination clinics in all 10 LTC homes and provided first vaccinations to 908 people.

This is an exciting and emotional time for many. Erin Vereyken, Manager, COVID Vaccination Program, RCDHU states, "On my drive to Barry's Bay for the first COVID-19 vaccine immunization clinic in RCD, I couldn't help but reflect back to the journey that not only I have been on throughout this pandemic, but also for all of my colleagues at RCDHU. I was working when RCDHU received its first confirmed positive case of COVID-19 on March 23, 2020. Together with my manager, and RCDHU Public Health Nurses, we worked into the night for the case and contact follow up. Now, I am having the privilege to be able to assist and participate in the first COVID-19 vaccines in RCD being given, making this a full circle experience. Our RCDHU team received an extremely warm welcoming when we arrived to Valley Manor, and I could sense the positivity and excitement in all the staff in being able to finally administer the vaccines to their residents. When the first COVID-19 vaccine was given at Valley Manor, the room was filled with feelings of happiness, hope and tears of joy. It was a true sign that we were all one step closer to putting this pandemic in our rear-view mirror."

Andrew Keck, Manager, COVID Vaccination Program, RCDHU continues, "Over the past two weeks I have had the pleasure of working with each of the LTC homes to plan COVID-19 vaccinations for residents. The level of detail and preparedness in their plans has been impressive, and ultimately led to a successful vaccination campaign for the first doses to LTC residents. I personally had a chance to witness one of these immunization clinics. The enthusiasm and collaboration between the LTC homes, RCDHU, and County of Renfrew Paramedics, speaks to the level of commitment to residents we all have. Most importantly, I got to see the excitement and relief the residents had receiving the vaccine. Well done, and I look forward to completing second doses."

"Congratulations RCD. Lets' keep up the good work. RCDHU will continue to work on the COVID-19 Vaccine Roll Out and will be making the plan publicly available this coming Friday. This is a team effort, and we all have a part to play. I've said it many times, you are the offense, and we are the defense, and together we will beat COVID-19," states Dr. Robert Cushman,

Acting Medical Officer of Health, RCDHU.

Remember, we need to work together to stop the spread of COVID-19. Stay home. Stay Safe. Save lives. It is imperative that everyone do their part to keep the community safe; stay home if they are sick, avoid contact with people who are ill, practice physical distancing (2 metres), wear a mask/face covering when physical distancing cannot be maintained, wash their hands, use the COVID Alert App, and if you are symptomatic, complete the [COVID-19 self-assessment tool](#) or [COVID-19 school and child care self-assessment tool](#) before going to work, school or daycare, to monitor for symptoms and proper guidance.

For more information, visit RCDHU's website at <https://www.rcdhu.com/novel-coronavirus-covid-19-2/> or call 613-732-3629 or 1-800-267-1097.

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