

The background of the top half of the page features a grayscale image of several COVID-19 vaccine vials and syringes. One vial in the foreground is clearly labeled "COVID-19 VACCINE" and "INJECTION ONLY 0.9ml". Other vials and syringes are visible in the background, some slightly out of focus.

COVID-19

VACCINE DISTRIBUTION AND ADMINISTRATION PLAN SUMMARY

CURRENT AS OF FEBRUARY 12, 2021

Renfrew County and District
Health Unit

"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"



Version	Version Date	Amendment(s)
1 – Original	February 12, 2021	

This Vaccine Distribution and Administration Plan (VDAP) is an evergreen document, which will be adapted as new direction and information becomes available.

INTRODUCTION

COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic in March 2020 and continues to impact our economic, social and emotional wellbeing, particularly the health and lives of those most at risk due to age, illness and sociodemographic circumstances. Effective and efficient delivery of the COVID-19 vaccines is the key means by which we will overcome this pandemic.

As part of the COVID-19 response, all public health units in Ontario have been asked to develop a COVID-19 immunization plan for their catchment area. Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) has expertise in delivering annual influenza mass immunization clinics, distributing vaccine to community partners, overseeing vaccine cold chain, and judiciously managing vaccine inventory and wastage. The H1N1 pandemic demonstrated that well planned and executed mass vaccination efforts, are an effective method for addressing and slowing the spread of disease resulting from a naturally occurring pandemic. As well, seasonal influenza immunization campaigns have provided an opportunity to develop and practice approaches that may be used for the anticipated COVID-19 immunization program and to ensure consideration of the diverse needs of population groups based on vulnerability, and other socioeconomic and demographic factors.

RCDHU is well positioned to oversee the COVID-19 vaccination program and will execute this responsibility in close collaboration with healthcare, community partners and Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation. RCDHU is partnering with local hospitals, primary care providers, County of Renfrew Paramedic Service, other healthcare and community partners, including municipalities to achieve this monumental task. Through these established partnerships and following guidance from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), RCDHU is working to achieve the goal of having 75% of our community vaccinated against COVID-19 in 2021.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Renfrew County and District Health Unit's (RCDHU) COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution and Administration Plan (VDAP) is to provide a comprehensive and collaborative framework to immunize people in Renfrew County and District (RCD) with COVID-19 vaccines. This document is informed by: Ministry guidance and requirements; consultations and collaboration with our community partners; the unique needs of our region; and lessons learned from our previous immunization clinics.

This is an evergreen document. Ongoing provincial direction, partner consultations and improvement processes will guide periodic reviews and revision of the plan.

Three phases of execution are presented in this Plan, in accordance with Ontario's latest [Vaccine Distribution Implementation Plan](#). The Province's three-phase plan focuses first on high-risk populations, then moves to mass vaccination and eventually, to a steady state for any remaining Ontarians who want the vaccine.

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT

Renfrew County and District (RCD) is located in the Ottawa Valley in Eastern Ontario, Canada. It comprises the County of Renfrew, the City of Pembroke, the Township of South Algonquin and most of Algonquin Provincial Park. The total land area including Algonquin Provincial Park is 14,980 square kilometres. RCDHU serves 19 municipalities with a total of 109,087 residents (projected for 2021).¹ Almost half (48%) of the population lives in rural areas.²

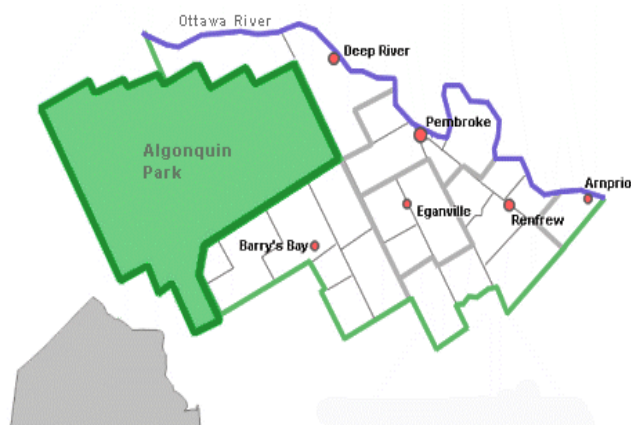


Figure 1: Map of Renfrew County and District

The 2016 Census provides the most recent information regarding age and culture in the local RCD context.³ The median age of RCD residents is 45 years and approximately 1 out of 5 residents (21,650 persons) are aged 65 years or older.³ About 2.5% (2,640 persons) in RCD belong to a visible minority, which is much lower than the provincial level of 29.3%.³

The Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation is situated on the shores of the Bonnechere River and Golden Lake and has an estimated population of 440.^{3,4} Roughly 2.7% of RCD residents (2,730 persons) have Registered or Treaty Indian status and 8.7% (8,705 persons) claim Aboriginal identity.³

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

Several partners will be engaged in the process of immunizing RCD residents with COVID-19 vaccines. Clear roles and responsibilities will be determined and documented in relation to the COVID-19 immunization implementation.

RCDHU is establishing an Incident Management Structure (IMS). The Renfrew County and District Command Table is providing overall direction in the preparation, launch and operations of the vaccination campaign. They will work to ensure that all resources are available and ready to support the immunization of residents with approved COVID-19 vaccines.

RENFREW COUNTY AND DISTRICT COMMAND TABLE

The RCD Command Table is led by RCDHU and is comprised of senior health sector leaders from across our area. The Command Table is responsible for coordinating all aspects of the RCD COVID-19 VDAC, and giving direction to all other committees, and tables. Membership may expand to include other leaders as the process evolves.

Currently, membership includes:

- RCDHU – Chair
- County of Renfrew Paramedic Service (Paramedics) Representative
- Congregate Care (e.g. Long-term Care/Retirement Home Representative)
- Hospital Representative
- Primary Care Representative
- Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation Representative

Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation

RCDHU recognizes the autonomy of our First Nations community. We are committed to working with them to support their vaccine plans. Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation will be important partners on the RCD Command Table and Prioritization Committee.

COMMITTEES

Renfrew County and District Prioritization Committee

This committee will receive direction from the RCD Command Table. Their focus will be to guide each phase of vaccine distribution, by setting priorities, based on expert opinion, local data, and Provincial direction. This will be of particular importance while vaccine supply is limited. The Prioritization Committee will use the principles outlined in the [Provincial Ethical Framework for Covid-19 Vaccine Distribution](#) to guide decision-making. This committee will include representation from various groups including, but not limited to, Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation, Primary Care, Hospital, Ethics, Epidemiology, and RCDHU.

Regional Leads Table

This table is constructed of a physician lead and administrative lead from the five designated areas: Pembroke, Deep River, Renfrew, Barry's Bay, Arnprior and their surrounding areas. A representative from RCDHU, pharmacy, and Paramedics will also have membership at the table. A municipal representative will also be included.

The Regional Leads Table will receive overall direction from the RCD Command Table and will also be guided by the RCD Prioritization Committee to help set priorities with regards to immunization of sub-populations.

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee comprised of internal and external organizations' communications leads will receive direction from RCDHU and the RCD Command Table and will help inform the Regional Leads Table and the public of key updates and education. The Communications Committee will centralize communications and align approaches across all organizations involved, to minimize confusion among messaging to partners and residents across RCD.

Local Planning Tables

Each of the five designated areas will have their own local planning table. Each local table will be led by a physician and administrative lead. Additional members should include representatives from RCDHU, Paramedics, hospital, primary care, community health centre, municipalities, pharmacy and other sectors as needed.

RCD is a large area, covering 14,980 square kilometres with diverse communities. RCDHU recognizes that the needs and resources in each area are not always the same;

therefore, tailored plans for each area are required to ensure a successful and equitable rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine. Local Planning Tables will be responsible for identifying what resources exist within their community, and for involving those resources in the planning and operation of COVID-19 vaccination clinics.

The progress of Local Planning Tables will be reported back to the RCD Command Table by the designated clinical or administrative lead.

RCD COVID-19 VACCINE DISTRIBUTION GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

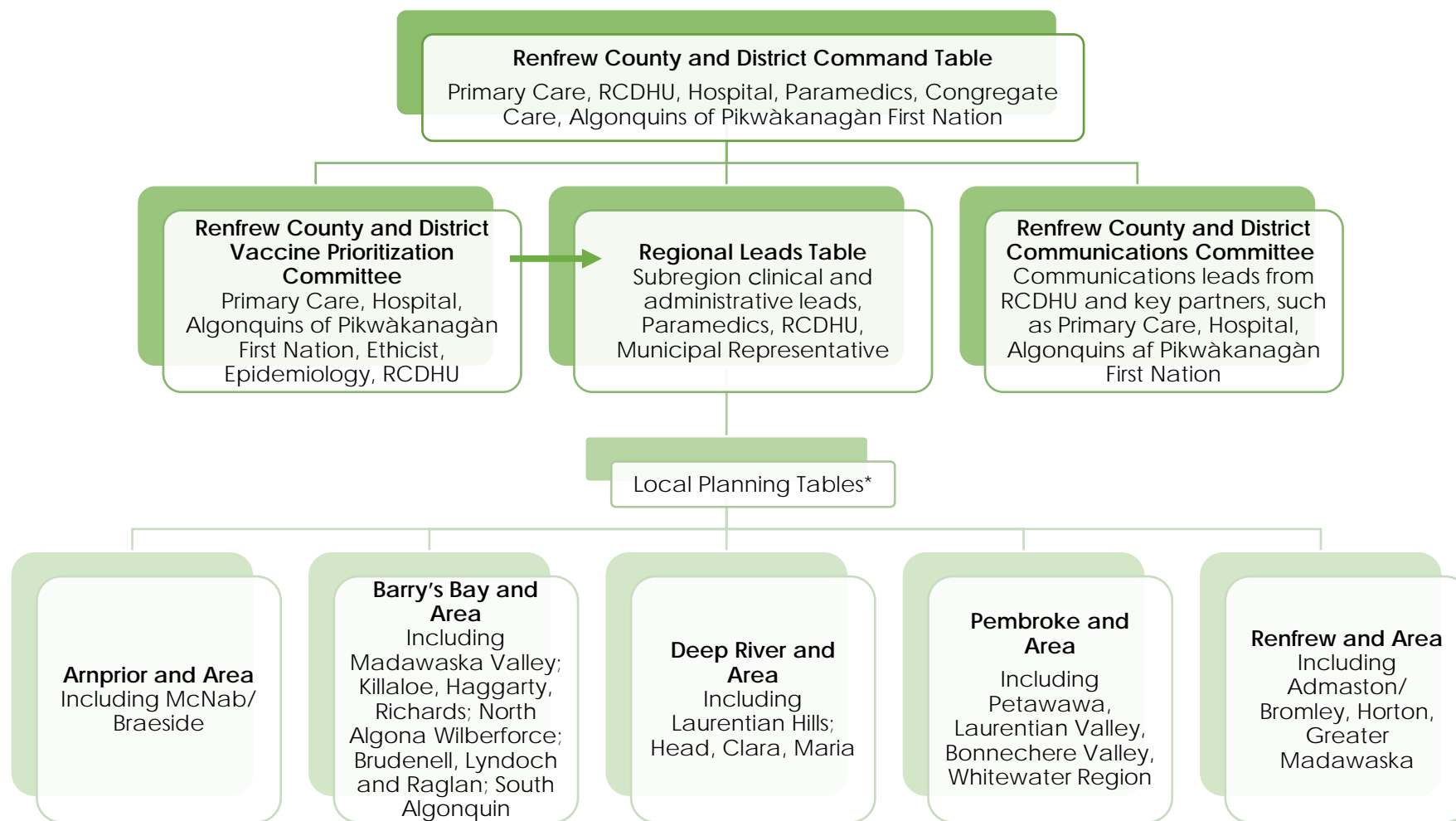


Figure 2: COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Governance Structure for RCD

* Local Planning Tables include representatives of: RCDHU, County of Renfrew Paramedics, hospitals, municipalities, primary care, Community Health Centres, and pharmacies.

THE WHO

PHASE 1: HIGH-RISK POPULATION IMMUNIZATION

Phase 1 includes the immunization of RCD's high-risk populations and is anticipated to run from January 2021 through March 2021. Specific populations identified by the Ministry of Health to receive a COVID-19 vaccine during this phase are:

- Residents, essential caregivers, staff and other employees of long-term care homes (LTCHs), retirement homes (RHs), and other congregate settings caring for seniors
- Eligible health care workers (in accordance with the Ministry of Health's [Guidance for Prioritizing Health Care Workers](#)) where priority may be given to those with:
 - Risk of exposure to COVID-19 within a health care setting based on health care worker role or responsibility
 - Risk of severe disease or outcomes from COVID-19 among patient population served
 - Criticality to health system capacity
- Adults in First Nations, Métis, and Inuit populations
- Adult chronic home care recipients

PHASE 2: MASS DELIVERIES OF VACCINE

Phase 2 includes mass deliveries of vaccines and is anticipated to run from March through August 2021. Specific populations identified by the Ministry of Health to receive a COVID-19 vaccine during this phase are:

- Older adults, beginning with those 80 years of age and older and decreasing in five-year increments over the course of the vaccine rollout
- Individuals living and working in remaining high-risk congregate settings
- Frontline essential workers
- Individuals with high-risk chronic conditions and their caregivers

- Other populations and communities facing barriers related to the determinants of health across Ontario who are at greater COVID-19 risk

PHASE 3: STEADY STATE

Phase 3 is anticipated to begin in August 2021 and will see RCD complete the mass vaccination and enter a steady state. All remaining RCD residents will be eligible to receive the vaccine (based on type of vaccine) during this phase.

THE TENTATIVE WHEN

Phase 1: Anticipated to run from January 2021 through March 2021.

Phase 2: Anticipated to run from March 2021 through August 2021.

Phase 3: Anticipated to begin in August 2021.

IMPORTANT: RCDHU recognizes that each phase of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout is dependent on availability and distribution of COVID-19 vaccine, and therefore is subject to change.

THE HOW

RCDHU will work collaboratively with partners to effectively plan various immunization clinic platforms for RCD residents to access the COVID-19 vaccine. For each targeted population within RCD, RCDHU, in collaboration with local planning tables, will determine the most effective model of vaccination clinic to offer based on the population health status, geographical location, accessibility, and local resources available.

Vaccination delivery models that will be explored will include mobile vaccination clinics, fixed immunization clinics, and drive-through clinics.

Mobile Clinics: Multidisciplinary teams of local health care providers (Public health staff, paramedics, local physicians, local health care workers, etc.) go into a facility/organization and work with the host to deliver vaccine on site.

Fixed Site Clinics: Mass immunization clinic locations set up in various locations throughout Renfrew County and District that will be in place for weeks to months. They will be staffed by multidisciplinary teams of local health care providers.

Phases 1

For Phase 1 of the provincial vaccine rollout, RCDHU has partnered with long-term care homes (LTCHs), retirement homes (RHs), paramedics, hospitals, and primary care as a minimum to ensure that staff, residents, and essential caregivers from LTCH and RH will have access to mobile immunization clinics. RCDHU staff will support the set up and coordination of mobile immunization clinics in LTCHs and RHs.

RCDHU will support hospitals in the planning and implementation of their clinics. Other congregate care facilities for seniors will be supported in a mirrored approach to LTCHs and RHs.

Phases 2 and 3

Fixed site immunization clinics for Phase 2 and 3 of the VDAP will run collaboratively with the support of our primary care, pharmacies, paramedics, hospitals and municipalities as a minimum to support the immunization and administration needs for these clinics.

The fixed site clinics will be geographically spread out while additional mobile vaccination clinics and/or temporary sites may be explored to ensure maximum uptake of vaccine. Fixed site clinics will be hosted in the following five regions of RCD:

- Arnprior and area
- Renfrew and area
- Barry's Bay and area
- Pembroke and area
- Deep River and area

COMMUNICATIONS

RCDHU recognizes the importance of clear communication and education about the safety, efficacy, and availability of the COVID-19 vaccines.

RCDHU and community partners will continue to communicate transparently with the public to ensure that the residents of RCD are informed and kept up-to-date on the latest vaccine information.

SUMMARY



Renfrew County and District Health Unit

"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

COVID-19 Vaccination Distribution and Administration Plan (VDAP)*

February 12, 2021 *Subject to change as new developments about vaccines and provincial distribution plans evolve

Phase	Phase 1 High-risk population immunization	Phase 2 Mass deliveries of vaccines	Phase 3 Steady state
Priority Populations Numbers are approximate and may be double-counted	<p>4,900^a Residents, staff, essential caregivers, and other employees of long-term care homes, retirement homes, and congregate living settings for seniors</p> <p>4,000^b Eligible health care workers</p> <p>Estimate in progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-risk individuals from Indigenous populations (First Nations, Métis, and Inuit) Adult chronic home care recipients 	<p>21,650^b</p> <p>Estimate in progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Older adults aged 65+ (beginning with those aged 80 years+ and decreasing in 5-year increments) People who live and work in remaining high-risk congregate settings Frontline essential workers People with high-risk chronic conditions and their caregivers Other high-risk populations 	<p>65,000^b Individuals aged 16+</p> <p>Remaining eligible residents of Renfrew County and District</p>
Expected Timelines	These timelines are for planning purposes only and are tentative. Delays in receiving vaccine supplies will result in timelines being adjusted.		
	January to March 2021	March to August 2021	August 2021 onward
Vaccination Delivery Approaches	<div> <div>Mobile clinics</div> <div>Fixed Site Clinics</div> </div>		

^a Data source: Local partners and internal data

^b Data source: Statistics Canada. 2017. Renfrew County and District Health Unit, [Health region, December 2017], Ontario and Ontario [Province] (table). Census Profile. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001. Ottawa.

IMPORTANT: RCDHU recognizes that each phase of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout is dependent on availability of COVID-19 vaccine, and therefore is subject to change and delay. This local vaccination approach is based on the latest [COVID-19 Vaccination](#) update from the Ministry of Health.

REFERENCES

1. Population Projections [2021], Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, IntelliHEALTH Ontario, extracted by Renfrew County and District Health Unit [2021/01/19]
2. Statistics Canada. 2013. Renfrew County and District Health Unit (Health Region), Ontario and Canada (table). Health Profile. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 82-228-XWE. Ottawa. Released December 12, 2013.
<http://www12.statcan.gc.ca/health-sante/82-228/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed January 16, 2021).
3. Statistics Canada. 2017. Renfrew County and District Health Unit, [Health region, December 2017], Ontario and Ontario [Province] (table). Census Profile. 2016 Census. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 98-316-X2016001. Ottawa. Released November 29, 2017. <https://www12.statcan.gc.ca/census-recensement/2016/dp-pd/prof/index.cfm?Lang=E> (accessed January 16, 2021).
4. Renfrew County and District Health Unit. (2016). Renfrew County and District Community Health Profile. Pembroke, ON.