

Renfrew County and District Health Unit

"Optimal Health for All in Renfrew County and District"

For Immediate Release (Pembroke, Ontario, 3:00 p.m., January 12, 2021)

RCDHU Update - COVID-19 Vaccine Roll Out

"RCDHU has been advised that we can expect to receive Pfizer and/or Moderna vaccines in early February, but there has been no confirmation of the number of doses," states Dr. Robert Cushman, Acting Medical Officer of Health, RCDHU.

Although the COVID-19 vaccine

is not currently available in Renfrew County and District (RCD), Renfrew County and District Health Unit (RCDHU) is leading the development and implementation of the local COVID-19 Vaccine Roll Out Plan. RCDHU has been contacting community partners including long-term care/retirement homes, hospitals, primary care, paramedics, and Renfrew County Virtual Triage Assessment Centre (VTAC), to involve them in the local planning and implementation of the COVID-19 vaccine roll out. RCDHU's COVID-19 Vaccine Roll-Out Plan will follow the provincial government's three-phase implementation plan, which is currently in Phase One. The province announced that Ontario will roll out the vaccines in three phases, focusing first on vulnerable populations that are at greatest risk of COVID-19. The key populations that will be first to receive the COVID-19 vaccine are as follows:

- Residents, employees and staff, and essential caregivers of congregate living settings that provide care for seniors;
- Health care workers (including all those who work in health care settings and those in direct contact with patients);
- Adults in First Nations, Métis, and Inuit populations where infection can have disproportionate consequences, including those living in remote or isolated areas;
- Adult recipients of chronic home health care.

Phase 2 is expected to begin in late winter, and will include:

- All members of the groups in phase 1;
- Additional congregate care settings (for example, shelters);
- Adults over 70 in expanded regions.

Phase 3 dates are unknown but will begin once priority groups from phases 1 and 2 have received vaccinations, and vaccines are available for the general public to be immunized.