

Monica Hawkins

From: Greg Rochon <greg.rochon@healthunit.ca>
Sent: Saturday, January 16, 2021 9:54 AM
To: Greg Rochon
Cc: Andrea McLellan
Subject: FW: COVID vaccine and medical first responders.

Hello,

Please see below a note from Andrea McLellan.

Be safe, distance yourself.
Greg

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From: Andrea McLellan <andrea.mclellan@healthunit.ca>
Subject: COVID vaccine and medical first responders.

Good afternoon

The Vaccine Preventable Diseases program has been receiving a large number of calls from fire departments and individual fire fighters regarding accessing the COVID vaccine. I wish to clarify the process for immunization in phase 1 for those who live and work in the North Bay Parry Sound District Health Unit district.

As of today, the Health Unit has initiated no COVID vaccine immunization clinics as we have not received any vaccine. We do not know when we will receive vaccine nor how much vaccine we will receive.

Our planning process has begun and I thought it would be helpful to share this information with you.

We will be utilizing the following process for immunizations during phase 1:

The first groups to be immunized will be:

1. Residents, staff and registered essential care givers of Long Term Homes, followed by retirement homes, followed by congregate care settings for seniors. This is where efforts are currently focused from a planning perspective. All immunizations for staff and residents will be provided at the home's location.
2. Next will be health care workers (HCW). Planning for this sector will include identifying the order and how the various HCW groups will have access to the vaccine. An ethical framework and prioritization process based on risk of exposure in the workplace will be utilized to determine the order of immunization.
3. Next is adult members of First nations, Metis and Inuit communities
4. Finally, adult recipients of chronic home care services

At this point in time we have received no confirmation regarding when we will receive vaccine, what product we will receive or how much vaccine we will receive. Nor have we been provided with any information regarding the ongoing supply of vaccine to our area. This is making our planning very difficult and means we are unable at this time to provide any projection as to when your sector will have access to the vaccine. Determining priority within this very large group of individuals will be done using an ethical framework and prioritization process. How we manage immunizing within this group will also need to be determined and be dictated by the volume of vaccine available.

I would ask that you await further direction from the Health Unit with respect to when the members within your workforce who meet the criteria of medical first responders will have access to the vaccine and how we will be providing that access. I do not anticipate having vaccine available for this group before sometime in March.

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