



Memo

To:	LTC Residents, Independent Living, Families and Staff
From:	Gary Basran (CEO) Vanda Cozier (DOC)
Date:	December 29th, 2020
Subject:	COVID-19 Update (no current cases at SCOC)

The holidays have been very quiet for all of us, the new restrictions limit any social gatherings, COVID-19 cases are on the rise and there is a sense of frustration and anxiety of the current number of positive COVID-19 cases, especially in our part of the province.

Ontario reported a single day high of 2,553 new cases of COVID-19 as of Tuesday. This morning's update from the province also included another 1,939 cases from Sunday, for a two-day total of 4,492 additional infections.

Of the 2,553 cases, 895 were in Toronto, 496 in Peel Region, 147 in Windsor-Essex, 144 in Hamilton and 142 in York Region. That brings the province's seven-day average to 2,236. The below chart shows the active, resolved and deaths in Ontario as of January 2020.

Ontario - As of January 2020 to Current:

category	Active	Resolved	Deaths
Under 20	2735	19353	1
20-29	3892	31740	6
30-39	3128	23770	12
40-49	2816	21444	35
50-59	2941	21847	137
60-69	1900	13732	376
70-79	1078	6798	782
80-89	883	5381	1596
90-99	462	3096	1431
Total:	19835	147161	4376

With 34,112 tests completed in the last 24 hours, Ontario's COVID-19 positivity rate sits at 9.7 per cent -- the highest it's ever been.

The Government of Canada has a monitoring program in place with the provinces and territories to identify [new COVID-19 variants in Canada, such as the ones identified in the United Kingdom and South Africa.](#)

While early data suggests that these new variants may be more transmissible, to date there is no evidence that they cause more severe disease or have any impact on antibody response or vaccine effectiveness. More research is required to confirm these findings and the Canadian and global medical, public health and research communities are actively evaluating these mutations.

The Canadian government has approved two Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccines: [Pfizer-BioNtech COVID-19 Vaccine](#), [Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine](#). The approval of the vaccine is supported by evidence that it is safe, effective and of good quality. Vaccines work with your immune system so your body will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. This can reduce your risk of developing COVID-19 and make your symptoms milder if you do get it. Supply will not arrive all at once, so distribution will happen in stages. The goal is for everyone in Ontario to be able to get a COVID-19 vaccination if they want one, as soon as enough doses are available from manufacturers.

Who will get vaccinated first?

- Everyone who lives in Canada will have access to a safe, effective and free COVID-19 vaccine in 2021.
- Vaccination has started and will be expanded to the entire population throughout 2021 as vaccine supply increases. Doses for the whole population will arrive at different times.
- A phased approach to vaccine delivery will begin with the arrival of limited doses, which will be prioritized for high-risk people.

Priority high risk groups.

- residents and staff of shared living settings that provide care for seniors
- adults 70 years of age and older, beginning with adults 80 years of age and older, and then decreasing the age limit by 5-year increments to age 70 years as supply becomes available
- health care workers who have direct contact with patients, including those who work in health care settings and personal support workers
- adults in [Indigenous communities](#)

As additional COVID-19 vaccine(s) and supplies become available, the following populations should be offered vaccinations:

- health care workers not included in the initial rollout
- residents and staff of all other shared living settings, such as homeless shelters, correctional facilities, and housing for migrant workers
- [essential workers](#) who face additional risks to maintain services for the functioning of society

Provinces and territories are working on detailed vaccination rollout plans for their residents. Today we had 15 staff members volunteer to receive the vaccine at Michael Garron Hospital. We will have an additional 15 staff members get vaccinated on Dec 31st, which will give us a total of 33 staff participating in the vaccine roll out plan. A second dose of the vaccine will be required 21 days after the 1st dose is administered.

The following precautions remain in place and available for all residents should they wish added protection:

- Tenant screening is available in the main entrance daily between the hours of 6am to 9 pm.
- The Province of Ontario implemented regulations on the mandatory wearing of a mask or face covering through Ontario. We urge you to wear face coverings (masks) while in the common spaces, and hallways of the community and when off premises.
- Under the temporary physical distancing bylaws, people who are not from the same household must maintain a physical distance of two meters (six feet) apart. Social distancing rules must be adhered to and only 5 people will be allowed in the Tea Room at one time, dining in is not allowed.
- The Tea Room remains open Monday to Friday from 10 am to 11 am and from 2 pm to 3 pm so that food items, fresh coffee and pastry can be purchased.
- The Dietary Department will be open for meal preparation and delivery only (breakfast, lunch, diner). No dine in will be allowed during the shutdown.
- Adult Day programs and SALC will be either delivered virtual (ZOOM) or one-to-one visits (no groups sessions).

We appreciate everyone's cooperation and patience.

Stay Safe
Regards
Gary Basran
CEO

Vanda Cozier
DOC