MEMO RE: COVID-19 VACCINE ROLL OUT STRATEGY & HEALTH PROFESSIONAL LEARNERS
December 18th 2020

Vaccine Availability in Ontario

On December 9th 2020, Health Canada approved the first COVID-19 Vaccine in Canada. The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine was authorized after being reviewed for safety, efficacy, and quality.

Ontario is expecting to receive over 90,000 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine over the course of December 2020, which will be distributed to 19 hospital sites in regions most impacted by COVID-19*. As directed by the Ministry of Health, this includes two pilot sites, The University Health Network (UHN) and The Ottawa Hospital, who received doses of the vaccine earlier this week and administered 2300 initial doses to essential health care professionals working in hospitals, long-term care homes, retirement homes and other congregate settings caring for seniors.

In addition, once approved, the Ontario Government expects to receive 35,000-85,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine, allowing for expansion to residents living in long-term care homes in high priority areas.

Vaccine Distribution Process Overseen by the Province

There is a central process is being developed for vaccination roll out through the Ministry of Health, including how the COVID-19 vaccine should be distributed, to whom and when. Hospitals are engaged in planning for these efforts.

Medical residents, fellows and all health professional learners are being considered within the overall vaccination process along with frontline staff. More information from the Ministry of Health is anticipated in the coming days.

For more information, please visit:

Government of Ontario: COVID-19 Vaccines for Ontario
Government of Canada: COVID-19 Vaccines
Government of Canada: Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine: What you should know

*Grand River Hospital, Halton Healthcare, Hamilton Health Sciences, Humber River Hospital, Lakeridge Health, London Health Sciences Centre, Mackenzie Health, Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre, Scarborough Health Network, Southlake Regional Health Centre, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, The Ottawa Hospital, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, Toronto East Health Network, Trillium Health Partners, Unity Health Toronto, University Health Network, William Osler Health System, Windsor Regional Hospital.