



Message from
Dr. Laura McDougall
Senior Medical Officer of Health



COVID-19 Immunization Update

Please print and share with your teams as needed

Dear staff, physicians and volunteers,

Please find the enclosed COVID-19 immunization update. Information is also available on our [COVID-19 website](#), and will be consolidated in the regular Friday staff emails.

Today's Update

- **By the Numbers**
- **More Vaccine Arriving in Alberta**
- **Expansion of Second Dose Immunization Window**
- **Continuing Care Spotlight – North Zone**
- **Dr. Hinshaw and Dr. Yiu - Importance of Vaccine Video**
- **Adverse Events Following Immunization**
- **Reminder: Honour Your Appointment Time**
- **Questions**

By the numbers

As of 3 p.m. January 12, more than 53,100 Albertans received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine, including:

- 22,600+ Healthcare workers
- 17,900+ Long Term Care (LTC) and Designated Supportive Living (DSL) staff
- 15,500+ LTC/DSL residents

More Vaccine Arriving in Alberta

More than 23,000 additional doses of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine has arrived in Alberta as of Jan. 12. These doses will be distributed across the province as we work to immunize as many Albertans against COVID-19 as quickly as possible.

Expansion of Second Dose Immunization Window

As announced today (Jan. 12) by [Alberta Health](#), Alberta will be offering second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine within 42 days after the first dose. This aligns with the approach recommended by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization and the World Health Organization statements on vaccines for COVID-19. For

residents of LTC and DSL facilities, we will continue to offer immunization 3-4 weeks after the first dose.

Continuing Care Spotlight – North Zone



On Jan. 11, the first dose of COVID-19 immunization at all continuing care facilities in Northern Alberta was completed. Jean Chamberland, 86, at Extendicare in St. Paul, was one of the more than 1,900 residents immunized against COVID-19 in the North. Thank you to the dedicated staff like AHS Public Health RN Teana Pokeda, for helping to immunize some of our most vulnerable and for helping to achieve a major milestone in our COVID-19 response.

Dr. Hinshaw and Dr. Yiu - Importance of Vaccine Video



Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health, and Dr. Verna Yiu, AHS President and CEO, talk about the [importance COVID-19 immunization in this new video](#), and encourage all eligible healthcare workers to get immunized. The COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective, and is being made available to thousands of eligible healthcare workers and continuing care residents.

Adverse Events Following Immunization

As of Jan. 11, there have been eight reported Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI) with the COVID-19 vaccine. Of those, most were minor such as swollen lymph nodes, diarrhea, or a rash. Three involved an allergic reaction. None of these were determined to be anaphylactic reactions.

Having a limited number of adverse events is common in any immunization program, including influenza and the pneumococcal vaccine. The current overall adverse event rate per 100,000 doses for COVID-19 vaccines is roughly comparable to the rate for pneumococcal vaccines, where eight adverse events have been reported this year from just under 31,000 doses given.

Healthcare providers play a crucial role in monitoring vaccine safety and are obligated to report adverse effects that may be linked to immunization. Report adverse events to the [AHS Provincial AEFI Team](#).

Reminder: Honour Your Appointment Time

Please ensure you attend the immunization site on the date and time you book for your appointment using the online booking tool. This will prevent unnecessary lineups and help us to immunize staff as efficiently as possible.

Have a Question?

The full list of current vaccine delivery phases is available on the [Alberta Health website](#).

If you have any questions about the vaccine rollout, contact your supervisor or medical leader or see the [Staff FAQ](#). Additional information can be found on ahs.ca/covidvaccine. If your specific question is not addressed, please email AHSVaccineTaskforce@ahs.ca.

Sincerely,

Dr. Laura McDougall

Senior Medical Officer of Health

