



NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

March 24, 2021

Update for Physicians Still Awaiting the COVID-19 Vaccine

As you may know, the NLMA [approached the media last Friday](#) with concerns about COVID vaccine inequity among physicians. Coverage has been featured on CBC (NL and National), NTV, VOXM and several newspapers including *The Telegram*, *The Chronical Herald* and *The Toronto Star*. Since then, the NLMA has been approached by members who reported inconsistencies both among those working in RHA facilities in the same region, inconsistencies among community physicians in the same region and inconsistencies between regions.

Prior to approaching the media, the NLMA contacted the CEO of Eastern Health and the Deputy Minister of Health on March 15th. NLMA was advised by Eastern Health on March 17 that any remaining community-based physicians not connected to an RHA will be vaccinated in the second half of April.

On Friday, NLMA received word from the Department of Health that it was aiming to set up an online vaccine appointment registration portal by March 26 for non-vaccinated physicians who wish to administer COVID-19 vaccines to their own patients and/or as part of an RHA vaccine clinic during Phase Three. Physician vaccinators will be prioritized to receive the vaccine; however, this will not address vaccine inequity among all physicians. NLMA will continue to press for vaccine equity among all physicians.