

TO: All Staff and Physicians

FROM: Emergency Operations Centre

DATE: March 26, 2021

RE: COVID-19 Vaccination

As you are aware, we commenced our Staff COVID 19 vaccine roll out on January 7, 2021. We understand you may be anxious about when you will receive your immunization and appreciate your patience and understanding as our vaccination roll out plans have changed over the past several months.

We are pleased to share that we are on track to meet our goal to have all priority groups in Phase 1 vaccinated with first dose by March 31, 2021. The priority groups in Phase 1 include:

- Health care workers that work within 6 feet of clients, patients and residents in highest risk areas including:
 - Case Room
 - COVID Testing Sites
 - COVID Units
 - Intensive Care Units
 - Emergency Departments
 - Long Term Care
 - Paramedicine
 - Public Health
- Residents of long term care/personal care homes
- Home support workers
- Adults 85 years and older
- Adults who live in remote or isolated Indigenous communities

All staff and physicians who have already submitted their vaccination request who meet the criteria in Phase 1 will be contacted by March 31, 2021 with an appointment date. We will continue to vaccinate health care workers who apply and are included in Phase 1 on an ongoing basis. If you haven't already submitted your request for the COVID -19 vaccination, please see vaccination request form (here).

As of April 1, 2021, we will move to Phase 2 of the Provincial Immunization Plan. Fortunately, we already have vaccinated many health care workers included in Phase 2, which consists of: staff and physicians who may come into direct contact with patients who were not vaccinated in Phase

1. We recognize there are still staff waiting in this group. We are pleased to share that vaccinations will begin for staff and physicians who are included in Phase 2 during the week of April 18, 2021. Based on the vaccination requests we have received to date and our anticipated vaccine supply, we expect vaccinations to be completed for these individuals by May 3, 2021. Vaccine clinics will be offered throughout the region, in all primary health care areas in Phase 2.

Pre-registration is now open for Indigenous adults and we will begin booking appointments for this group next week. We encourage all staff and physicians who are Indigenous to pre-register (<u>here</u>) even if you have already submitted a vaccine request form to Employee Health. If you receive a vaccination by being a part of another priority group, we ask that you let us know by calling 1-833-703-5470.

If you have questions related to the COVID-19 vaccine, you can call Western Health's COVID-19 Vaccination Help Line at 1-833-703-5470.