



**NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

March 16, 2020

Update on COVID-19 Vaccinations for Community-Based Physicians

NLMA met today with Department of Health and Community Services officials to discuss COVID-19 vaccine rollout and when physicians not already vaccinated can expect to receive their vaccine as the province transitions from Phase One to Phase Two of the rollout.

The rollout to date has focused on those most at risk for severe disease and death including those 70 years old and up, frontline health care providers in COVID-facing areas such as ER, ICU and COVID wards, indigenous people, and workers and residents in congregate living situations.

As Phase Two of the rollout gets underway in the coming weeks, first responders and essential workers will be prioritized. This will include physicians not already vaccinated in Phase One. Timing of this phase of the rollout will depend on vaccine supply. While steady and increasing supplies are expected this week and the foreseeable future, the exact dates for vaccinating new groups cannot be identified yet because the dates on which exact quantities of vaccine will arrive are still subject to some uncertainty. This uncertainty of supply has impacted planning of vaccine rollout beyond the next few weeks.

The NLMA continues to convey to the Department the need to ensure vaccination for physicians who are providing direct patient care in their own clinics. We are hopeful that a registration process for these physicians will be established in the coming weeks.

The NLMA is also in talks with the Department on compensation for family physicians for administering COVID vaccines either to their own patients or as part of an RHA vaccine clinic. The Family Medicine Section Executive Committee is providing valuable feedback on the compensation proposal as our talks continue.