

January 4, 2021

Delivered by email

Mayor Frank Pope
Town of Norman Wells
Norman Wells, NT

UPDATE ON COVID-19 VACCINE ROLL OUT

As you are likely aware, health and social services authorities in the NWT have begun the campaign to vaccinate NWT residents. This work began on December 31 with residents and staff at long-term care facilities in Yellowknife and Behchokò being offered the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. This is a major milestone and we hope a turning point for the pandemic response. We know there are many questions about how this vaccine will roll out and want to assure you that we aim to work with and keep community and Indigenous government leaders informed and engaged throughout this process.

In the coming week you can expect to see vaccination clinics offered to staff and residents at all long-term care sites in the territory. This work will be done in collaboration with the facility staff, the residents, and their families.

In our region you can expect to see vaccine clinics at the Sahtú Dene Nechá Kó Long Term Care Facility. Vaccine clinics beyond Long Term Care sites are expected to start during the week of January 11th, with priority groups first to get their vaccines.

After vaccination clinics at Long Term Care sites we will be working with each community to identify dates and locations for further clinics. Staff will be working to engage community members with the goal of educating people about the vaccine, answering questions, and ensuring anyone who is in the priority groups is aware of their opportunities to get vaccinated. It is important that we identify all individuals in each group who want to receive the vaccine so we can ensure the correct amount is transported into communities at each vaccination clinic.

In communities that require extra capacity to plan or deliver vaccination clinics we will send healthcare providers in to the community. The vast majority of these providers are NWT residents being redeployed from other parts of our operations, the few that may be hired from outside the territory will be required to isolate in a



NTHSSA • ASTNO

hub community for 14 days before any travel into smaller communities. Travelling immunization clinic teams are there to support your local healthcare providers who know your communities best and already have established relationships.

We understand there will be questions about a number of issues from vaccine safety to when we will be in each community to plan and then deliver vaccine clinics. Our plan is to provide resources to communities through various means including through direct conversations, distribution of key printed materials in all languages, providing translators at clinic opportunities, and our regular outreach through social and traditional media.

All of this information will be forthcoming and we will be producing a master schedule of clinics once we have all of the logistics coordinated. In the mean time we have attached two documents to this letter:

- COVID-19 Vaccine Q&A, this document provides a broad overview and answers many of the most popular questions about the vaccine. This document is being translated into Indigenous languages and will be available on the GNWT website as soon as complete. Please feel free to distribute this to your community members.
- A news release, issued by the Government of the Northwest Territories announcing the beginning of vaccination roll-out. This includes a list of the priority groups to be vaccinated.

In the coming days you will also see a release of the NWT's vaccine roll out strategy, we encourage you to read this document as it provides the full details of what can be expected in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Mireille Hamlyn
Chief Operating Officer
Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority – Sahtu Region

Northwest Territories Health and Social Services
Authority

Box 1320, Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2L9
Regional Identifier

Administration des services de santé et des
services sociaux des Territoires du Nord-Ouest

C.P. 1320, Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2L9
Regional Identifier