



December 18, 2020

Dear Revera Residents and Family Members,

As you know, the first COVID-19 vaccine from Pfizer has arrived in Canada. Moderna's vaccine will likely follow suit in a matter of days. After everything that has happened over the past 10 months, it's important to pause and let that sink in. The end to this terrible pandemic is in sight. It's extraordinary that the scientific community has developed, tested and manufactured a vaccine against a disease that was unknown to us just one (long!) year ago. We are pleased that governments across Canada are prioritizing the vaccines for healthcare workers.

I'm sure you have questions. We don't have all the answers yet, but here's what we do know about how vaccines will be prioritized at Revera:

- The applicable provincial ministries and public health authorities will determine which locations receive the vaccine and when. Each province is developing its own process and priority list for who gets the vaccine first. For example, for the Pfizer vaccine, in Ontario, Revera employees at Ottawa's Carlingview Manor Long Term Care Home and Toronto's Main Street Terrace Long Term Care Home have already begun that process. 21 inoculation sites have been identified for Ontario, which means the vaccine will roll out more quickly in the days to come. Western provinces are also mobilizing to get the vaccine to long term care staff as soon as possible.
- The Pfizer vaccine requires ultra-cold storage conditions and therefore cannot be administered at a long term care home or retirement residence. Employees and residents receiving the Pfizer vaccine will need to travel to a local hospital or other designated location to receive the shot.
- Two doses are required, approximately 21-28 days apart.
- Canada's initial shipment of the Pfizer vaccine does not include enough supply to vaccinate everyone. As more doses arrive, more employees and residents will have the opportunity to be immunized.
- Moderna, which is a second vaccine and about to be approved in Canada, will likely be handled a bit differently because it does not require the same extreme temperature-specific storage requirements.

It's important to note that taking the COVID-19 vaccine is not mandatory. Like most vaccines, there are contraindications; this may mean that people with certain conditions, like allergies, or who are on certain medications, should not take it. These details are provided as part of the consent process at the time of the vaccine and everyone should speak with their healthcare provider to make an informed decision prior to having the vaccine.

At Revera, where employees have identified they cannot take the vaccine, they will still be permitted to work, despite their inability to be inoculated. I cannot reinforce enough that our infection prevention and control protocols, including the proper use of PPE, remain our best defense against COVID-19. Even after our workers are vaccinated, we will continue to wear PPE and follow good Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) practices. We will also continue with staff surveillance testing, which has proven valuable in identifying asymptomatic carriers.

I want to encourage everyone to get vaccinated both against the flu and against COVID-19. When we get vaccinated, we protect our families and friends because the virus will not be able to live in your system. Importantly, you will contribute to population immunity, which is an important step toward returning to normal.

I do want to warn you that there is a lot of false information circulating about the COVID-19 vaccines. Please make an informed decision based on facts from reputable sources, such as Health Canada, or speak to your healthcare provider. Don't believe everything you read on social media.

Thank you. Stay safe and remember the 3 Ws: wash your hands, wear your mask and watch your distance.

Sincerely,

Rhonda Collins
Chief Medical Officer, Revera Inc.