

PEMBROKE REGIONAL HOSPITAL

MEMO

TO: All Members of the PRH Health Care Team

FROM: Pierre Noel, President and CEO

DATE: February 25, 2021

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Staff Vaccination – Our Time Is Now

It's an exciting time at PRH this week with the launch of our COVID-19 vaccination clinics. I want to personally extend my gratitude to all of you who have worked so hard to ensure their early and resounding success.

As an observer at yesterday's clinic for Marianhill staff and essential caregivers, I found it heart warming to see how much those receiving the vaccine appreciated this opportunity. It was also quite a moment to witness an eruption of spontaneous applause in the room when the first dose of vaccine was given.

It's also great news that recent amendments to the province's prioritization list now allow for all health care workers to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in the short time ahead and we have a large team of people working very hard to get everything ready so that this can happen as quickly and as efficiently as possible.

Receiving the vaccine not only protects us in our roles at the hospital and helps us keep the most vulnerable in our community safe, but also allows us to show leadership by showing others how important it is for everyone to get the shot.

We have been working very hard to make sure that you have all the information you need about the safety of this vaccine in order to make an informed decision before getting it and we are hoping that all or most of you will. We are already seeing uptake in the range of 80% among staff in the long-term care sector where, as you know, they have been most significantly impacted by COVID-19.

If you have any further concerns or questions about the vaccine I encourage you to speak with someone from our Occupational Health and Safety team, your primary care provider or alternatively you can contact the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre. The Renfrew County and District Health Unit's website also has an extensive amount of information available about the vaccine.

For those of you who may be “waiting” for the day of a clinic before turning in your consent form, you may not be aware that, unlike our internal “roaming” flu shot clinics, our COVID vaccine clinics are being done in a centralized location and through a formal scheduling system which is why it is imperative that everyone forward their consents now so that we can assess our numbers and schedule clinics to match up with the number of vaccine doses we anticipate receiving.

You may also wish to consider that as the province moves ahead with further priority groupings it is likely that appointments will fill up quickly making it more difficult for those who were missed during their window to receive the vaccine. So please, don't delay. Get your consent form in now. I did!

Clearly this is a time to celebrate the arrival of our COVID-19 vaccines. Widespread vaccination will protect our community and will help us all return to life as we knew it. Please get the shot!

COVID-19 Vaccination Consent Form

<https://www.pemreghos.org/uploads/Common/COVID-19%20Screening%20and%20Consent%20form-Vaccine.pdf>

The consent form is also available in the COVID-19 section of Staff Resources on the Pembroke Regional Hospital website (www.pembrokeregionalhospital.ca).

All completed forms must be returned to the Occupational Health and Safety office (located in C021, Ground Floor, Tower C). A locked dropbox is available in that location for after hours drop-offs. The document can also be scanned and sent by email to OccHealth@prh.email.