

**Ministry of
Long-Term Care**

Office of the Minister

400 University Avenue, 6th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1N3

**Ministère des
Soins de longue durée**

Bureau du ministre

400, avenue University, 6^e étage
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January 8, 2021

Dear Partners:

While 2021 has begun with a feeling of optimism with the rollout of the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines, the fact remains we are seeing a rising number of cases across the long-term-care sector. Immediate and decisive action, on our part and yours, is what is needed now to protect our most vulnerable—Ontario's long-term care residents and those who care for them.

We are making substantive progress in our vaccine distribution efforts and I am happy to share that to-date nearly 100,000 people in Ontario have been vaccinated. We are acting quickly and decisively, and we need your help to encourage all health care teams, long-term care residents and their essential caregivers to roll up their sleeves and get vaccinated.

Getting vaccinated is the safest, most effective and reliable way to protect yourself and those around you from contracting COVID-19. It is vital that we do everything we can to help stop the spread of the virus and keep everyone safe.

As we await future shipments from the federal government, we anticipate administering all 95,000 doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine at our 19 active hospital sites in the next several days. In addition, last week Ontario received its first delivery of 53,000 doses of the Moderna vaccine. This first, small shipment is being used in provincial hotspots, Toronto, York, Peel and Windsor-Essex, and we expect a delivery of an additional 56,000 doses on January 11. It is our goal to vaccinate all long-term care residents and staff in these hotspots by January 21st.

We will soon release protocols to safely and efficiently transfer the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine beyond the point of delivery. Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines have started to be administered within long-term care homes, and we look forward to seeing more and more residents of long-term care homes vaccinated in the coming days.

Getting our most vulnerable people and those who care for them safely vaccinated as soon as possible is imperative, and I am asking for your support to turn the tide in our fight against COVID-19.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M Fullerton".

Dr. Merrilee Fullerton
Minister of Long-Term Care