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From the Office of Dr. Joyce Lock, Medical Officer of Health, Southwestern Public Health

Delay in Second Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine Due to Supply Constraint

The Federal Government of Canada recently announced further delays in delivery of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to Canada due to retooling to expand a European manufacturing site. Given the limited supply, and in keeping with direction from Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health, effective immediately, all second doses of vaccine for those who have received their first dose through the Western Fair Agriplex will be rescheduled to 42 days from the date they received their initial dose.

Due to scarce vaccine supply in the region and direction from the Provincial Government, the only remaining groups eligible to receive a first dose of the vaccine are long-term care and high-risk retirement home residents. Southwestern Public Health remains on track to have first doses completed for all long-term care residents in our region next week. We will then shift our focus to completing first doses in high-risk retirement home residents. Efforts will be made to administer the second dose of vaccine to long-term care and high-risk retirement home residents and staff within 21 to 27 days of their first dose, should vaccine be available. If supply constraints continue, second doses for this group may also have to be scheduled up to 42 days after their initial dose.

These adjustments align with the recommendations from the [National Advisory Committee on Immunization \(NACI\)](#), who have updated their recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccines.

For more information, please refer to the [Update on Regional Prioritization of COVID-19 Vaccine](#) issued January 20, 2021.

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