

Ministry of Health

Primary Health Care Branch
Physician and Provider Services
OHIP, Pharmaceuticals and
Devices Division

Director

438 University Ave, 4th Floor
Toronto ON M7A 1N3

Tel.: 416-325-3575
Toll-Free: 1 866 766-0266
Facsimile: 416 326-4194

Ministère de la Santé

Direction des soins de santé primaires
Services de médecin et des services aux professionnelles
Division de l'Assurance-santé, des produits
pharmaceutiques et des appareils et accessoires
fonctionnels

Directrice

438 Av University, 4^{ème} étage
Toronto ON M7A 1N3

Tél.: 416-325-3575
San frais: 1 866 766-0266
Télécopieur: 416 326-4194

MEMORANDUM TO: Family Health Teams
Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics
Aboriginal Health Access Centres
Indigenous Interprofessional Primary Care Teams

FROM: Nadia Surani
Director
Primary Health Care Branch

DATE: December 13, 2021

RE: Important Ministry Request – COVID-19 Vaccines

Primary care providers have been working tirelessly in their efforts to support vaccination, all while maintaining regular comprehensive primary care for patients. The Ministry of Health deeply appreciates your efforts to support the health of Ontarians.

Despite this, the Omicron variant is quickly becoming the dominant strain of COVID-19 in Ontario, and cases will continue to sharply increase. Ensuring that all Ontarians are able to receive their vaccinations as quickly as possible is of the utmost importance to reduce the risks of morbidity and mortality from COVID-19 and maintain critical operations in our health care system. In order to enable vaccination to occur as quickly as possible the ministry is requesting that interprofessional primary care teams redeploy their publicly funded resources (which includes Ministry funded staff) and prioritize their work to assist in the administration of COVID-19 vaccines during the next two weeks.

The ministry expects that your organizations take responsibility for ensuring vaccination of your eligible patient population, whether in collaboration with mass clinics run by Public Health Units (PHUs)/ health partners or within your own clinics in partnership with PHUs. PHUs continue to be responsible for determining the best ways to maximize vaccine throughput and will continue to collaborate with and provide vaccines to primary care. It is our expectation that you redeploy resources to support PHUs in delivering on their plans for vaccine administration, where possible.

COVAX_{ON} is mandatory for primary care providers taking part in the COVID-19 vaccine administration program. PHUs are responsible for setting up each primary care site in COVAX_{ON} and providing training and onboarding support to ensure readiness for vaccine administration in collaboration with Ontario MD. Please work with your PHU contacts to access training and onboarding details.

Interprofessional primary care teams who participate in these efforts can contact their ministry representative if there are extraordinary costs associated with vaccine administration. To enable participation in the COVID-19 vaccination efforts, interprofessional primary care teams may pause or adjust their programs and services, except those that are deemed critical (e.g., acute care, mental health and addictions).

Thank you for your assistance in this critical matter. Your ongoing support, commitment and dedication in the fight against the pandemic are greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions, please connect with your assigned ministry contact.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nadia Surani', is positioned above the printed name.

Nadia Surani