



## Message from Dr. Verna Yiu & Dr. Laura McDougall

### *Rollout of vaccine to 75+ seniors in community*

#### **Dear staff, physicians and volunteers,**

Tomorrow, AHS hits another milestone in our COVID-19 journey with the rollout to Alberta seniors, 75 years of age and older. Starting tomorrow at 8 a.m., Albertans who were born in 1946 or earlier will be able to book their [COVID-19 immunization appointment online](#) or through Health Link.

This is a huge step for AHS and for Albertans as we work to ensure our populations most at risk of severe outcomes from this virus are protected.

Seniors will need to show government-issued ID as proof of age, and have their Alberta Health Care card on hand at their appointment. We anticipate to have all Alberta seniors age 75 and older immunized by end of March or early April, pending vaccine availability.

We ask all staff to help protect their loved ones, 75 years of age and over, by encouraging them to get the vaccine, by helping them book their appointment, or by providing transport to and from these appointments.

A limited number of participating pharmacies will also be helping deliver the vaccine to seniors in the weeks to come. Bookings will be handled directly by the pharmacies through their own booking system. More information on this will be shared as details become available.

Please visit our [frequently asked questions](#) for more information, or visit [ahs.ca/covidvaccine](https://ahs.ca/covidvaccine).

#### **Phasing principles**

Since Alberta's COVID-19 Immunization Program launched in December 2020, and

with not enough vaccine available to offer immunizations to everyone at the same time, Alberta Health established a [phased approach](#) aligned with anticipated vaccine supply. The decisions made behind the COVID-19 immunization roll-out takes into account groups that have been particularly hard hit by the pandemic.

The sequencing of health care workers takes into account the tremendous impact COVID-19 has had on the health care system's ability to deliver care and support patients, the need to prevent future outbreaks that further impair health system capacity and flow was also considered.

We anticipate high demand for appointments in the next several days and we ask everyone to be patient. We know everyone is anxious to book appointments and get their immunization. This will happen, and is being guided by vaccine availability. We will continue to open up appointments as more supply is available.

### **Thank you**

Alberta will hit the one year mark of living in a pandemic in a few short weeks. We are truly grateful to everyone involved in both our COVID-19 response, and in the vaccine rollout. To those who have gone the extra mile, demonstrated diligence, compassion, patience and empathy to both our patients and families, and each other – thank you. Thank you for your dedication to your teams, your patients, and Albertans as we enter this next phase in our pandemic response, together.

With gratitude and appreciation,

### **Dr. Verna Yiu**

AHS President & CEO

### **Dr. Laura McDougall**

Senior Medical Officer of Health

