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## Media Release



### **Timiskaming Health Unit thrilled to announce the arrival of the COVID-19 vaccine in our district Monday, January 25, 2021 - For immediate release**

Timiskaming Health Unit is thrilled to announce the first delivery of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine in our district today. The Timiskaming Health Unit will be collaborating with long-term care facilities in order to support vaccination clinics.

“The truck rolled in this morning to deliver our district’s first vaccine doses,” said Dr. Glenn Corneil, Acting Medical Officer of Health and CEO for the Timiskaming Health Unit. “We are excited to begin getting vaccines into arms so that we can protect our most vulnerable.”

The Timiskaming Health Unit is immunizing residents of all long-term care homes across the district to meet the provincial expectation that residents receive their first dose by February 5.

“It is impressive that we have received our doses on the one-year anniversary of the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in Canada,” said Dr. Corneil. “Health Canada conducted an expedited, or rolling, approval process for the vaccine that made it possible for Canadians to receive vaccines quickly, while at the same time taking no shortcuts in vaccine approval.”

The Timiskaming Health Unit has the overall responsibility for the local implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination program. The Province of Ontario is leading the overall COVID-19 immunization strategy for Ontario and has identified who will get the vaccine first. Public Health will be working closely with partners as vaccine supply becomes available to identify priority groups to receive early vaccination as part of the next stage of Phase 1 of *Ontario’s Vaccine Distribution Implementation Plan*, which includes residents, essential caregivers, and staff of congregate care settings for seniors; health care workers; adults in First Nations, Métis, and Inuit populations; and adult recipients of chronic home health care.

The province of Ontario is currently in lockdown. District residents need to stay home except for essential travel and especially need to avoid social gatherings.

District residents are reminded to:

- Continue practicing physical distancing
- Wear a mask or face covering in public indoor spaces
- Wash hands with soap and warm water or use alcohol based sanitizers and do not touch your face
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow
- Gatherings with people outside of your household are prohibited under lockdown
- Avoid non-essential travel within and outside of our district, especially to high transmission areas
- Stay home if unwell and contact your local Assessment Centre (AC) to schedule an appointment for testing
- Respect public health and any additional safety measures businesses have put in place
- Reach out to vulnerable people in your community who may need support

For more information on COVID-19, visit [www.timiskaminghu.com](http://www.timiskaminghu.com) and the [Ontario Coronavirus website](#). For more information on COVID-19 vaccines, visit THU's [COVID-19 vaccine page](#).

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