Vaccine Delivery Process

Immunization Phases

Saskatchewan’s COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan is built on the foundation of age and risk factors.

**Phase 1** is focused on vaccinating high-risk populations, people of advanced age, and health care workers that have been identified as a priority.

**Phase 2** is focused on vaccinating the general population.

Moving between phases

The timeline for Saskatchewan's COVID-19 Vaccination Delivery Strategy is dependent on vaccine supply and availability.

It’s important to understand the timeline for each phase may change due to vaccine availability.

You will not miss your chance to get the vaccine when a new phase starts. Once you become eligible, you are always eligible. If you are eligible in Phase 1, you can still get the vaccine in Phase 2.

Dose requirement

Currently, all approved COVID-19 vaccines in Canada require two doses of vaccine per person.

**Both your 1st and 2nd dose must be of the same vaccine.**

When vaccine supplies are limited, the time between first and second doses will be extended so more people can receive their first dose, increasing the benefit of limited vaccine supplies. The World Health Organization and the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) support up to 42 days between doses.

PILOT: December 2020

- 1,950 health care workers were vaccinated at Regina General Hospital with the Pfizer vaccine.
- First recipients included health care workers in ICUs, Emergency Departments and COVID Units at Regina General and Pasqua Hospitals, testing and assessment centres, and some Saskatchewan Cancer Agency and EMS employees.
- Pilot recipients received their second dose 21 days following the administration of the first dose.
- Pilot project intended to provide better understanding of the handling and storage requirements of the Pfizer vaccine.

PHASE 1: December 2020 - March 2021

- Immunization targeted to priority populations, including long-term care residents, health care workers and people of advanced age and highest risk.
- Allocation information is expected to be regularly updated by Public Health Agency of Canada.

Distribution Plan:

1. Long-term care and personal care home residents and staff (30,584 estimated);
2. Health care workers in emergency departments, intensive care units, COVID-19 wards and COVID testing and assessment staff (10,000-15,000 estimated);
3. Residents 70 years and older in all communities (131,119 estimated);
4. Residents over the age of 50 living in remote/Northern Saskatchewan (8,921 estimated)
5. Additional health care workers included in priority sequencing for Phase 1 as announced February 16, 2021 (11,500 estimated). These additional workers include:
   - Individuals directly involved in delivering COVID-19 immunizations in Phase 2 including physicians (up to 2,600), pharmacists (up to 1,200) and other SHA health care providers involved in delivering COVID-19 immunizations;
   - Anesthesia/operating rooms;
   - All other critical care areas;
   - Hemodialysis;
   - Vaccination teams;
   - Radiology technicians;
   - ECG/echo;
   - Phlebotomy/lab workers handling COVID-19 specimens; and
   - Home care (direct care providers).

Booking an Appointment

- Residents and staff in long-term care and personal care homes will be contacted directly.
- Priority health care workers will be contacted to book an appointment.
- People 70+ living independently in the community will receive information on booking appointments directly or through local media.

There is no list for individuals to pre-register to receive the vaccine.
PHASE 2: April 2021 – Fall 2021

Distribution Plan:
• Phase 2 will focus on the general population by age, in 10 year increments, and is likely to overlap with Phase 1.
  » 60-69 years (138,471 estimated) Will also include clinically extremely vulnerable adults, adults and staff in group homes for persons with intellectual disabilities, and shelters.
  » 50-59 years (147,469 estimated)
  » 40-49 years (151,901 estimated)
  » 30-39 years (183,292 estimated)
  » 18-29 years (190,043 estimated)

Booking an Appointment
Beginning late March/early April, residents eligible in Phase 2 will be able to book appointments in the following ways:
• through an easy to use, online scheduling system; or
• by calling a dedicated call-centre, toll-free; and
• drop-in clinics will also be available.

Vaccine Clinics
There will be vaccine clinics across Saskatchewan, plus 100s of various other access points. The clinics will follow these formats:
• By Appointment e.g. Public health clinics
• Drive-Through/Walk-In e.g. Drive-through clinics, mass immunization clinics, mobile clinics
• In the Community e.g. Pharmacies, partnerships with community based organizations.

Ensuring Access
To ensure all Saskatchewan residents have access to the COVID-19 Vaccine, multiple delivery methods will be established:
• Healthcare settings such as pharmacies, childhood immunization clinics (parents to receive COVID-19 vaccine), acute care settings;
• Trusted relationships to contact hard to reach residents;
• Mobile Access such as clinics on wheels, and roaming teams of immunizers who visit group homes, shelters, etc;
• A variety of community locations such a rinks, community halls, etc. are being explored; and
• Partnerships with larger employers to vaccinate staff on site.

Public Notifications
All vaccination information including:
» when it’s your time to be vaccinated;
» how to register for a vaccine appointment;
» the different types of immunization clinics available; and
» how to find the closest clinics to you, will be available at saskatchewan.ca/covid19-vaccine.

Vaccine information will also be shared using:
» Advertising in local media
» Social media
» Online ads
» Local publications
» Posters
» News conferences

Proof of Immunization
• People will receive a wallet card with a record of their COVID-19 vaccination.
• Vaccination records are stored electronically on MySaskHealthRecord. Paper copies are also available.

Community Immunity
Vaccines protect you from COVID-19. The more people in a community who are immunized against COVID-19, the harder it is for the virus to spread.
Community (herd) immunity against COVID-19 could be reached when a large majority of people in Saskatchewan are immunized. When you choose to be vaccinated against COVID-19, you are helping save lives by protecting your household and your entire community from the virus.

Layers of protection
Going back to normal life will take time. Even if you have received the vaccine, you must follow provincial health orders and protect others by:
» washing your hands,
» staying home when sick and getting tested,
» keeping a safe distance from others, and
» wearing a mask in public, indoor spaces.