

# Immunization Tour Backgrounder

February 18, 2021

## **Saskatchewan has a plan to vaccinate as many people as possible, as quickly as possible.**

- The COVID-19 immunization is a safe, effective way to help everyone stay healthy, prevent illness and save lives.
- The provincial immunization delivery strategy had three main avenues of distribution:
  - » Mass immunization clinics
  - » Drive Thru immunization venues
  - » Mobile immunization resources
- Immunization will also be delivered through partnerships with other health providers, including family physicians, pharmacies and others which may include walk-in options.
- As new groups of individuals become eligible for immunization, they will be notified in a number of ways, including print and online advertising, utilizing social media and traditional news media, posters and through leveraging relationships with community partners and municipalities.

## **Mass Immunization Site**

- Mass Immunization clinics like the one located at the International Trade Centre at Evraz Place in Regina are the SHA's primary delivery mechanism for vaccine in major populated areas.
- After making an appointment – either online or by phone – you show up 5 minutes before your designated appointment time. There should be no more than one or two people in line – physically distanced – waiting to register. Once registered, you will be queued up for the next available immunizer. You then wait for the greeter to direct you to an immunizer.

The immunization clinic has the ability to accommodate up to 30 immunizers. Each immunizer is at a physically distanced immunization station. Each station is resourced with supplies for vaccine delivery and cleaning.

- When an immunization station is occupied, a red sign will be shown. The immunizer is either with someone providing vaccine, cleaning the space or getting resupplied by a greeter. When they're ready to immunize the next person, the sign is switched to green.
- The greeter at reception will direct you to the next available immunizer with a green sign. Your appointment will be with a specific immunizer number but at the clinic you'll be directed to the first available, making the process more efficient as the flow to a nurse is not interrupted.
- Once your immunization is complete, you will be directed to the waiting area. There you will be observed 15 to 20 minutes, just as with an influenza clinic, to ensure there's no reaction to the vaccine.
- Following your immunization, you will receive a card that outlines which vaccine you received, and if possible, the date of your second follow-up appointment. The second appointment is just as important as the first to ensure you receive the most protection.
- When your time is up, you can leave. Should you require proof of immunization, this information can be found through MySaskHealthRecord, which requires pre-registration.
- This process is the most efficient method to get immunized. Very little waiting, so you can plan for about 30 minutes from arrival to departure.

## Drive Thru Immunization

- Drive thru immunization venues provide those with last minute availability to access the vaccine on demand without an appointment.
- Drive thru sites are expected to have longer lineups and wait times. Each site has different capacity so the number of people able to get immunized can vary.
- The Drive thru at ITC in Regina is located in the same area as the drive thru testing site – which will expand from testing to include immunization as part of the delivery plan.
- This space can accommodate up to 18 vehicles at a time, but the number of immunizations will vary depending on the number of people in each vehicle. While temperatures are cold, vehicles will be brought in to the site in groups so the doors can be closed.
- Once immunization of your vehicle is complete, you will be directed out the doors to the waiting parking lot that accommodate more than 30 vehicles. You will wait in this lot for 15 to 20 minutes while being monitored for any reaction to the vaccine.

## Mobile immunization vehicles

- This part of the delivery plan represents our goal at reaching rural, remote and vulnerable populations in the province, mitigating limited access to transportation throughout urban, rural and remote areas to increase access to the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Mobile immunization units are self-contained immunization clinics – with all the supplies and resources needed to provide vaccine to groups of various sizes – that can provide immunization to people who otherwise can't travel to a mass clinic or a drive thru. This can be rural communities, congregate or assisted living homes, First Nations and urban reserves, correctional facilities to name a few.
- Having the ability to reach out to the community and provide access to the vaccine to people who can't or in some cases wouldn't access it in another way.
- In some cases, being able to reach people who cannot travel easily due to medical or physical condition means the difference between being immunized or not. In other cases, there may be barriers such as affordability, distance or even apathy that can only be addressed using mobile delivery.