



## NEWS

## 3 things to know about Ontario's COVID-19 vaccine announcement

Province has yet to decide who will get the vaccination first

By [Veronica Appia](#) Toronto.com

Tuesday, December 1, 2020

The Ontario government has announced an update to their COVID-19 vaccination plan – one which Health Minister Christine Elliott says will be the "largest logistical undertaking that we've had in Ontario in a generation."

"We have to get this vaccine to every corner of this province," Elliott said during today's provincial COVID-19 update, adding that collaboration among a number of

sectors including logistics, technology, patient care and pharmaceuticals, is critical.

"It's no small feat and we know we can't do it alone," she said.

The Dec. 1 announcement was made at McKesson's warehouse in Brampton, Ont., a potential storage site for the future vaccine.

Here are three takeaways from the Dec. 1 announcement:

## Ontario government in talks with public, private sectors

The province is currently in talks with a number of public and private sectors in an effort to build the necessary logistical partnerships ahead of the future vaccine launch in the province.

Elliott said as of Nov. 30, the province has been consulting with the following vaccine manufacturers: AstraZeneca, Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson, Janssen, Moderna, GSK and Sanofi.

As well, the province is consulting with companies such as like McKesson and Shoppers Drug Mart regarding their expertise in getting vaccines stored and distributed throughout their networks.

## Province has yet to decide who will be prioritized

### Related content

---

[Pfizer vs. Moderna: Comparing 2 of the top COVID-19 vaccine candidates](#)

[Ontario colour zones COVID-19 status](#)

Elliott said the province is still communicating with their task force about who will be

prioritized when it comes to receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. The names of the members of this task force, which includes a bioethicist, have yet to be made public.

Gen. Rick Hillier, who is overseeing the vaccine rollout in the province, said while vulnerable citizens and healthcare workers appear to be the top two cohorts prioritized to receive the vaccine, there are other factors to consider.

"It's easy to say that, but when you operationalize it ... (for example) you have 50,000 vaccines and you have them available on this day, then you want to be very careful," he said. "In some cases, those two priorities, I think, will probably go together."

## Vaccine roll out expected for early 2021

Hillier said while the province will be ready to receive the vaccine by Dec. 31, they are at the mercy of the federal government, which may mean waiting through Q1 2021.

He said while the province would like to get the vaccine as early as possible, waiting could give Ontario, as well as the rest of Canada, the benefit of looking to other nations to see what is working well and what isn't, with regards to their own rollouts.

"If it is not until the first quarter of 2021 ... that gives us more time to prepare and make sure we are absolutely ready – and we've got a million things that we want to get done," he added.

### Headlines newsletter

---

Top stories delivered to your inbox.

[Sign Up](#)

**Veronica Appia** is a reporter with *Torstar Corporation Community Brands*, covering COVID-19 news across Ontario.

Tags: [Hyper Local](#), [Local News](#), [Provincial News](#), [News](#)

[REPORT AN ERROR](#)

[JOURNALISTIC STANDARDS](#)

[ABOUT US](#)