

Retired general Rick Hillier, who is heading Ontario's vaccination task force, said Tuesday that the province's first Moderna doses would be going to long-term-care homes in COVID-19 hot spots.

Nursing homes in lockdown areas including Toronto, Peel Region, York Region and Windsor-Essex will see vaccinations first, along with red zones such as Halton Region, Durham Region and Hamilton.

"We're ready to roll when it does arrive," Hillier said. "I can't give you a figure of how many people will be vaccinated by the end of the year because we don't know how many more vaccines are coming to us."

Hillier estimated 1.2 million Ontarians, mostly health-care workers in high-risk situations, nursing homes and some retirement home residents will get shots by the end of March depending on supplies.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration concluded Tuesday that the Moderna vaccine is safe and highly effective, and is expected to grant emergency use authorization later this week.

[Canada's vaccine rollout kicked off Monday](#) with the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine as injections began on health-care workers in Ontario and long-term-care residents in Quebec, and is expanding to other provinces this week.

Canada is expected to receive an initial shipment this week of 30,000 Pfizer doses, and will receive 200,000 further doses next week, Trudeau said 70 vaccination sites across the country will be ready to receive the doses, up from just 14 this week.

Pfizer and Moderna are among seven vaccine manufacturers that signed agreements with Canada that could provide access to up to 414 million doses, though most have yet to be approved.

Vaccines from AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson are also currently under review by Health Canada.

With files from Rob Ferguson and The Canadian Press

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