

into as many arms as possible right away, and we are pleased to see these clinics get underway.”

RMH has been an active partner throughout the pandemic response. The hospital has organized and staffed the local assessment centre to administer COVID-19 tests, assisted long-term care homes while in outbreak, and have most recently received and administered COVID-19 vaccine to high-risk and priority health care workers and first responders identified under phase one of the province’s vaccine distribution plan.

“Our staff have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic and we are pleased to be able to provide a clinic to vaccinate our most senior residents,” says Kelly Isfan, CEO of RMH.

The mass immunization clinic at the LEX will operate as a drive-through clinic to help to ensure that as many residents as possible can be vaccinated. The clinic at the Fenelon Falls Community Centre will operate as a fixed site. Details for both clinics and the provincial booking system can be found on the Health Unit’s website: [www.hkpr.on.ca](http://www.hkpr.on.ca).

“This past year has been extremely challenging for our residents,” said Andy Letham, Mayor of Kawartha Lakes. “We have lost loved ones during devastating outbreaks, experienced financial challenges as our work and businesses have been closed and missed loved ones and friends as we abide by stay-at-home orders and practise physical distancing. This vaccine doesn’t mean things will go back to normal right away, but it is a step in the right direction to get us back to the way things used to be.”

Residents of retirement homes and congregate care settings for seniors (eg. assisted living) do not need to call to book an appointment. These individuals will receive their vaccinations from the HKPRDHU, and those clinics will take place in those retirement homes.

Community Care City of Kawartha Lakes will provide accessible transportation to the clinics for eligible seniors and adults with special needs who require it. Community Care wants to make sure that transportation is not a barrier for those wanting to get vaccinated. More details on how to schedule a ride will be announced in the coming days.

Once vaccinations of residents born in 1941 or earlier is complete, HKPRDHU will begin accepting appointments from those highlighted in the province’s priority groups – those unable to work from home, and older adults between the ages of 60 to 79 in five-year increments. HKPRDHU may also implement additional vaccination clinic models including mobile clinics and pop-up clinics to help reach more residents as the list of people eligible for vaccinations continues to expand.

Until everyone is fully vaccinated, Dr. Gemmill urges people to continue to follow the public health recommendations: stay home if ill, only go out for essential reasons, wear a mask when in public, practise physical distancing, and wash your hands thoroughly and frequently.

How do I get an appointment?

#### Frequently Asked Questions

CKL residents who were born in 1941 or earlier can book a vaccination appointment through the provincial booking system. Appointments can be booked online or by phone. The provincial system goes live Monday, March 15.

Appointments will be booked for available clinic dates and times and appointment availability