

March 17, 2021

Attention RHA Staff and Membership,

**RHA Process for Individuals/family/guardians requesting an Individual RHA supports, registers for Covid-19 vaccination earlier than Phase 2 C:**

1. Individual/family/guardian may wish for an individual to receive a vaccination in an earlier rollout phase as the individual is eligible.
2. Due to the different types of vaccines and rollout dates, it will be necessary for the individual/family/guardian to contact the Residential supervisor and make the arrangements needed to register an individual
3. Individual/family/guardian is encouraged to contact Residential supervisor prior to registering for a vaccination appointment. It is important to advise RHA of:
  - when the appointment is scheduled for,
  - if the family/guardian will be supporting the individual. (After the appointment, please provide any post-care instructions to the support team.)
  - -or - if the family/guardian are requesting RHA to support the appointment
  - Provide the date and type of vaccine received. This will be recorded on a Medical Contact Note (MCN), and placed on the Individual's file. (Quality Assurance; medical folder)
4. It is the responsibility of the individual/family/guardian to understand and consent to the vaccine they are registering for. The appropriate written consent is required.
  - During registration a screening questionnaire is completed, and will verify if an individual is eligible and recommended to take certain vaccines.
  - Depending on where the vaccination is given (ie. Pharmacy), that providers consent form may be required.

**Due to the complexity of eligibility and rollout phases, RHA will not be responsible to determine *if and when* an individual could be vaccinated, this must be directed by and in consultation with the decision maker (individual/family/guardian) for an individual in service. RHA staff will be willing to support as directed by the decision maker. It is also the responsibility of the decision maker to inform RHA if consent *IS NOT* provided for a specific vaccine.**

**AHS Phase 2 is broken into Groups A to D.** Vaccinations for each group will begin once the previous group has been completed. Timelines are subject to change depending on vaccine supply.

The Alberta AHS website outlines the following timelines and eligibility for individuals to access vaccinations:

**Phase 2: (AstraZeneca): started March 10 (Limited supply remaining)**

The following groups can receive the AstraZeneca vaccine early ***if they do not have a severe chronic illness:***

- Albertans aged 50 to 64
- First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) individuals aged 35 to 49

Appointments will open in stages by birth year, one year at a time:

- March 10: Born in 1957 or FNMI Born in 1972
- Following birth years and dates will be announced while supply lasts

**Phase 2A Vaccination Rollout Begins**

March 15, 2021 Phase 2A of Alberta's vaccination program began. The following groups are now eligible for the COVID-19 vaccination:

- Albertans born 1947 to 1956 (turning 65 to 74), no matter where they live
- First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) people born 1971 or earlier (turning 50+), no matter where they live
- Staff and residents of licensed seniors supportive living facilities not included in Phase 1

We encourage you to regularly visit the [government website](#) for further details about the vaccination program, and new and updated information.

### **Phase 2 (Group B, C, D): TBA - April to June**

#### **Group 2 B**

Phase 2 is broken into 4 groups. Vaccinations for Group B will begin once Group A has been completed. Timelines are subject to change depending on supply. Details on how to get the vaccine will be released prior to each group.

#### **Who's eligible in Group 2B**

Albertans born 2005 to 1957 (16 to 64) with any one of the following high-risk underlying health conditions:

- Asplenia or dysfunction of the spleen (a missing spleen or a spleen that is no longer working)
- Cancer (anyone with a new diagnosis of or treatment for all forms of cancer in the last year, except non-invasive skin cancer)
- Chronic heart disease and vascular disease:
  - Including: congenital heart disease, chronic heart failure, heart or kidney disease from high blood pressure, and a history of a stroke
  - Not including: high blood pressure alone
- Chronic kidney diseases requiring regular medical monitoring or treatment
- Chronic Liver disease due to any cause (for example: cirrhosis, chronic hepatitis, and hemochromatosis)
- Chronic neurological disease (for example: epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, MS, muscular dystrophy and dementia)
- Chronic respiratory (lung) diseases:
  - Including: COPD, cystic fibrosis, pulmonary hypertension, and severe asthma that required an asthma-related emergency department visit or hospital admission in the past year
  - Not including: mild or well-controlled asthma
- Diabetes requiring insulin or other anti-diabetic medication to control
- Immunosuppression: a weakened immune response due to disease or treatment, including:
  - anyone undergoing chemotherapy or treatment for HIV, genetic disorders of the immune system
  - people receiving long-term medical treatment to control severe inflammation such as rheumatoid arthritis or systemic lupus
- Pregnancy: anyone who is currently pregnant
- Severe mental illness or substance use disorder requiring a hospital stay during the past year (for example: schizophrenia, depression, anxiety disorders and others)

- Severe obesity: a Body Mass Index of 40 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or more
- Severe or profound learning disabilities or severe developmental delay:
  - Including: individuals with Down syndrome, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, cerebral palsy, autism spectrum disorder and others
  - Not including: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Solid organ, bone marrow or stem cell transplant recipients

[Detailed clinical breakdown of these conditions and who is eligible](#) (PDF, 410 KB)

#### Confirming eligibility

- A doctor's or pharmacist's note is not required to get the vaccine. However, you may want to talk to your doctor or pharmacist to help you understand if your condition is on this list.

#### Group 2 C

- Residents and staff of eligible congregate living settings: correctional facilities, homeless shelters, group homes including disability, mental health and other types of licensed supportive living
- Health-care workers providing direct and acute patient care who have a high potential for spread to high risk individuals
- Caregivers of Albertans who are most at risk of severe outcomes

Individuals in disability congregate care settings are in Phase 2 C along with the staff. It is clear that by Phase 2 C all RHA Licensed Residential Homes (4 or more persons) living in the home will be eligible. At this time, we have no further information on when Individuals NOT residing in Licensed Residential Homes will be eligible to receive vaccine. Information will be shared, when RHA obtains further updates.

**Individuals and staff may be eligible for vaccinations in Phases 2A and 2B if they fit criteria listed above.**

Thank you for your patience and support during this time.

We appreciate all of the expressions of support and caring sent to the Association, and we extend the same to you and your families.



**Ann Marie LePan**

Chief Executive Officer

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