

March 5, 2021

From: Robin Hood Association (RHA) Leadership Team

Covid-19 Vaccination Update

In the past number of weeks, we have been anxiously awaiting for information for when Covid-19 vaccinations will be rolled out to our RHA community. The continually changing communication on this topic in the media, and when it will be made available for persons with disabilities and their staff has been nothing short of inconsistent and a lack of information being provided to us, Services Providers (RHA) from Alberta Health Services and Community and Social Services.

Information you can find online outlines the following;

Individuals in disability congregate care settings are in Phase 2 C along with the staff. However, there are some individuals who will qualify earlier than that because of their personal health or age profiles. Any Albertan over 75 is already eligible (RHA has been able to have a few individuals immunized who were in this age category) and Phase 2 Group A will lower the eligible age to 65. Phase 2 Group B will include people with a yet to be defined list of underlying health conditions. This likely will also pick up some individuals with disabilities.

This approach is unnecessarily complicated for disability Service Providers (RHA) rather than getting all individuals immunized at one time (setting up a clinic or providing in homes), not vaccinating people who are eligible for other age or health reasons until Phase 3 is also a bad idea. It's unfortunate that individuals with disabilities were not prioritized higher.

RHA continues to be working closely with our local public health units and will be looking for solutions to support the roll out of vaccinations sooner than later for the individuals we provide care for. To clarify, after changes to the vaccination eligibility RHA has not been offered to have Covid-19 vaccination clinic on our sites to be rescheduled for broad scope immunizations.



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