



PHARMACIES ACROSS CANADA READY TO ADMINISTER THREE MILLION VACCINES PER WEEK

Provinces should immediately enable pharmacies to offer additional vaccine to get more needles in arms

May 6, 2021 - As provinces look to get as many vaccines to as many people as quickly as possible, pharmacies across Canada are ready with the capacity - and the expertise - to administer up to three million doses of vaccine each week. Pharmacies are eager to play an even more substantial role in the vaccine rollout across Canada by including mRNA vaccines and increasing supply allocations.

Pharmacy is involved in administering and delivering mRNA vaccines in almost every province. The entire pharmacy sector has the experience and proven ability to store, handle, distribute and maintain the stability of all COVID-19 vaccines approved in Canada. Pharmacies are vaccinating only 20 to 30 per cent of people, far below their capacity, in large part because they are not receiving an adequate proportion of doses of vaccine to administer.

There is untapped potential in pharmacies to get more people vaccinated more conveniently and accessibly by allocating more vaccine to pharmacy.

As incoming supply of vaccines into Canada is expected to increase this month, Neighbourhood Pharmacies strongly encourages all provincial governments to allocate more vaccine to pharmacies. Community pharmacies have the capacity to do more and support their health sector partners - and, above all, their patients. Administering vaccines in local pharmacies is more financially and practically effective, efficient, and is a preferred option for people. A recent [survey](#) conducted by the Canadian Pharmacists Association suggests that more Canadians want to be vaccinated in their pharmacy than anywhere else.

Allowing pharmacies to vaccinate to their fullest potential will see more people vaccinated more quickly, in an environment where they are comfortable and with a provider they trust. It will also alleviate the pressures on mass vaccination clinics and free up the time and resources of other healthcare professionals. As we move forward together, Neighbourhood Pharmacies urges decision-makers to allocate more vaccines to pharmacies to finally end this pandemic and re-open our communities.

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