



Dear [NAME],

Happy 2021! I hope you are all staying healthy and safe.

No doubt we've had a tough start to the year. But as we wait for more vaccines, there are lots of reasons for optimism, and positive developments are on the horizon. Here is the latest information on what's happening at St. Michael's, as well as answers to some frequently asked questions.

#### **How is St. Michael's doing with vaccination rollout?**

St. Michael's has charged ahead with our COVID-19 vaccination clinic in the Peter Gilgan Patient Care Tower. Based on the government's priority guidelines, our network clinics have vaccinated approximately 10,000 health-care workers, long-term care residents and essential care partners in a very short period of time. Moreover, as of January 14, residents in all long-term care homes and priority retirement homes affiliated with Unity Health Toronto have been vaccinated with the Moderna vaccine.

#### **What is the hospital doing to support other vulnerable communities?**

Unity Health is collaborating with Ontario Health, Inner City Health Associates and Toronto's Shelter, Support and Housing Administration on a [pilot project](#) to vaccinate people experiencing homelessness and staff at the City-operated Scarborough Village Residence shelter site. What we learn from the pilot will be used to develop a playbook for the province that will be shared with other hospitals and community partners. Watch a clip from *The National* [here](#).

#### **How is St. Michael's responding to the reduced supply of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine?**

As you have no doubt heard, shipments of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to Canada are being reduced significantly over the next four weeks. The provincial directive to vaccination clinics is to pause any new first doses until the Ministry is able to confirm more vaccine shipments and fulfill second dose requirements. This means that all vaccination clinics, including ours, will only provide second doses to health-care workers.

#### **What is St. Michael's doing to manage the surge in COVID-19 cases?**

The hospital's pandemic response strategy will continue to involve a variety of options based on patient care demands. We are pulling out all the stops to get more staff to join our hospital, including a broad recruitment campaign, a new referral program and partnerships with other hospitals to support the Toronto Region. Despite these efforts, we may need to consider other strategies to sustain our clinical service delivery, including reducing the number of surgeries, expanding team-based nursing, extending work hours and redeploying clinically trained staff to patient bedsides.

#### **How and when can I get a vaccine?**

As directed by the Ministry of Health, the provincial vaccination clinics, including the clinic at St. Michael's, are currently prioritizing second doses of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines for health-care workers. As the province receives more vaccines, we can expect more information about additional phases in the vaccination program. Updates will be posted [here](#).

We will keep you updated on the developments as soon as they become available. In the meantime, I wish you and your loved ones a safe and healthy New Year.

Sincerely,

Lili Litwin  
President, St. Michael's Hospital Foundation



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