



# COVID-19: ONE YEAR LATER

Dear [NAME],

The wintry blasts of February are giving way to optimism as more vaccines arrive in Canada. And today I have great news to share with you: The St. Michael's Hospital vaccination clinic is now booking appointments through a new online booking tool and call centre for people 80 years of age and older (born in 1941 and before).

If you're eligible, you can book online at [www.vaccineto.ca](http://www.vaccineto.ca) or call 1-888-385-1910. For more information, [click here](#). Please note that you might experience longer wait times or difficulty connecting due to high volumes. We're asking you to please not call the hospital directly.

We are asking that people book or pre-register at only one of Toronto's vaccination sites, preferably the site that is closest to their home. If no appointment times are available when you try to book, please check back. New appointments will be added every Thursday at 7 p.m. for the following week as we receive more information about our vaccine supply.

Demand for COVID-19 vaccines currently exceeds supply. We are expecting a steady increase in the supply over the coming weeks which will allow us to offer more vaccinations to this priority population. Thank you for your patience.

At this point in the pandemic, as we witness the race between vaccines and variants, we still have lots of questions. How long will the rest of us have to wait to get the vaccine? What's the story on the made-in-Canada vaccine? Will all the vaccines work against all the variants? We asked two St. Michael's infectious disease experts, [Dr. Mario Ostrowski](#) and [Dr. Peter Jüni](#). Read on to find out.

In the meantime, our scientists are working relentlessly to understand the virus and keep us safe. Read on to find out about a few of the game-changing research projects they're undertaking to fight COVID-19 on multiple fronts, and some of what St. Michael's has achieved over this most difficult year.

We hope you tuned in to the latest edition of our Powerhouse speakers series. In honour of International Women's Day, five of our inspiring female physicians, scientists and leaders spoke about their lives, careers, challenges and breakthroughs. [Click here](#) to watch the webinar. We've also launched the Power Circle, which brings together female philanthropists who are changing the care experience by supporting programs at St. Michael's. [Click here](#) for more information.

This may be one of the toughest winters many people have lived through. But vaccines are en route. And we can continue to do our part by masking up, maintaining physical distance, and staying home whenever possible. I wish you all a safe, healthy month ahead.

Sincerely,

Lili Litwin  
President, St. Michael's Hospital Foundation

## THE YEAR IN COVID-19 AT ST. MICHAEL'S

<p><b>2,800+</b> Number of donors who have given to combat COVID-19 so far.</p>	<p><b>\$12.69 million</b> Donations so far to combat COVID-19.</p>
<p><b>1,717</b> Number of people experiencing homelessness who were given tablets, gift cards or meals during the pandemic.</p>	<p><b>5,000</b> Number of nights in hotels donated to frontline staff who were unable to go home.</p>
<p><b>3,000+</b> Number of COVID-19 tests administered per week at the peak.</p>	<p><b>74</b> Number of active COVID-19 research projects.</p>
<p><b>\$28,473,201</b> Amount of COVID-19 research funding awarded to St. Michael's scientists.</p>	<p><b>110+</b> Number of COVID-19 research articles by St. Michael's scientists published by academic journals.</p>



### THE INSIDE SCOOP ON THE CANADIAN-MADE VACCINE

St. Michael's scientist Dr. Mario Ostrowski has been working with Providence Therapeutics to develop a new COVID-19 vaccine at his U of T lab. We asked him how it will work and what it could mean for Canada.

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### HOW TO PREVENT A THIRD WAVE

St. Michael's Dr. Peter Jüni, Scientific Director of the Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table, fills us in on the new COVID-19 variants and why they're more infectious.

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## OUR CUTTING-EDGE COVID-19 RESEARCH

St. Michael's scientists are leading diverse research projects to help us fight the pandemic now and forge sustainable, system-wide solutions for the future. Here are a few of them:

**Dr. Prabhat Jha** is spearheading the largest effort in Canada to determine how many people have had COVID-19. It's the first in Canada to use blood-based antibody testing to find out how long immunity lasts.

**Dr. Michelle Sholzberg** is leading a clinical trial to find out whether higher doses of an inexpensive anticoagulant drug can prevent dangerous blood clots from forming in COVID-19 patients.

**Dr. Stephen Hwang** is leading a study that tracks COVID-19 transmission in the homeless population in order to prevent, detect and manage the virus in this high-risk group.

**Dr. Matthew Muller** is leading the Ontario arm of the largest independent study of vaccine safety in Canadian history, which tracks adverse reactions to COVID-19 vaccines.

**Dr. Darrell Tan** is looking at whether a short course of medication taken after someone is exposed to COVID-19 can prevent infection from developing.

**Dr. Andras Kapus** and **Dr. Katalin Szaszi** have discovered important mechanisms in antiviral immunity and identified novel and repurposed drugs that may boost antiviral defenses, helping to prevent and treat viral diseases.

**Dr. Ahmed Bayoumi** and **Dr. Michelle Firestone** are studying the most effective programs to mitigate the negative effects of physical distancing policies on marginalized populations.

**Dr. Jonathon Maguire** is spearheading the first study worldwide to investigate COVID-19 transmission among children and families across different socioeconomic groups.

**Dr. Sharon Straus, Dr. Sharmistha Mishra, Dr. Stef Baral** and **Dr. Tina Fahim** conducted a review to determine how outbreaks in long-term care facilities can be prevented and managed. Their work has informed the WHO's guidance document on infection prevention and control.

**Dr. Peter Jüni** led the first study to show that while 50 per cent of patients hospitalized with either COVID-19 or seasonal flu develop inflammation of the heart muscle, COVID-19 patients are at greater risk of death.

**Dr. Muhammad Mamdani's** data science team collaborated with Emergency Department Chief **Dr. Carolyn Snider** to develop a tool that tracks homeless patients with COVID-19 who come to Emergency, providing an early warning about outbreaks in shelters.

**Dr. Kim Connelly** is leading a multi-province study that looks at how many COVID-19 patients will develop organ scarring and other abnormalities in order to intervene earlier and improve outcomes.

## STAY INFORMED

Visit our [COVID-19 information page](#) for regular updates on how St. Michael's is responding to COVID-19, and follow our social channels below.



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