

## **Pembroke Regional Hospital Prepares To Move COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics To The Pembroke Memorial Centre (PMC)**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**March 9, 2021**

PEMBROKE – With confirmation that regular weekly shipments of the COVID-19 vaccine will be coming to Renfrew County and District, the Pembroke Regional Hospital is reassuring residents that everyone who wishes to receive a vaccine will have an opportunity to register for their appointments in the coming weeks and months based on their eligibility as outlined by the province.

In fact, in preparation for broader distribution of the vaccine, the hospital is in the process of moving its vaccination clinics from the hospital to the Pembroke Memorial Centre (PMC) in downtown Pembroke.

“Since February 24<sup>th</sup>, under leadership from public health, our hospital has vaccinated 1,984 individuals from the first priority groupings in our catchment area based on provincial guidance,” said Sabine Mersmann, PRH Senior Vice-President of Clinical and Support Services – Partnerships and Integration, adding that the County’s other hospitals have also been doing the same in their communities.

Those vaccinated to date include patient-facing health care workers in high risk areas such as the emergency department, intensive care unit, COVID units and other areas of acute care, long-term care staff and essential caregivers, priority retirement home staff and residents, first responders who provide medical response, community health workers serving specialized populations, those in lab services, and staff, physicians and specialists who work in congregate care settings, family health teams, dental offices, primary care, and pharmacies.

“The clinics held to date have been a tremendous success thanks to the efforts of all those involved who have worked so hard, mostly in a voluntary capacity, giving of their time to ensure they run as efficiently and effectively as possible,” Ms. Mersmann said.

Those involved have included many of our local physicians who have provided expert medical oversight, the County of Renfrew Paramedic Service, the Pembroke Fire Department, community volunteers, PRH retirees, a number of the hospital’s current staff and management team, the Renfrew County and District Health Unit, and many others in the health care community who have stepped up to provide assistance. Ms. Mersmann added that the City of Pembroke is also providing a great deal of assistance in helping facilitate the use of the PMC for the clinics from this point forward.

For members of the public who are anxiously waiting for notification of when opportunities will open up for them to register for their vaccine appointment, she said that announcements for the next priority groups will be coming from the Public Health Unit this week.

“We are asking everyone to stay tuned to social media, local media outlets, and the Renfrew County and District Health Unit website ([www.rcdhu.com](http://www.rcdhu.com)) for all the information pertaining to vaccine eligibility and the registration process,” said Dr. Richard Johnson, Command Table member and Co-Chair of the Regional Leads Table for vaccination distribution in Renfrew County.

“As you can imagine, those involved with vaccine distribution are working very hard to roll this out so please refrain from calling or emailing hospitals, the health unit, or the clinic sites about vaccine distribution or how to register for an appointment,” Dr. Johnson said.

People should, however, contact their primary care provider if they have questions about their personal health status before receiving the vaccine. Alternatively, those without a primary care provider can contact the Renfrew County Virtual Triage and Assessment Centre (1-844-727-6404) to consult with a family physician.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

**Carolyn Levesque, Public Affairs and Communications Coordinator  
Pembroke Regional Hospital  
[carolyn.levesque@prh.email](mailto:carolyn.levesque@prh.email) / (613) 732-3675, extension 6165**