

## Ministry of Health – Ministry of Long-Term Care

December 12, 2020

Dear Long-term Care Home Staff,

Representing a turning point in our fight against COVID-19, Health Canada has authorized the Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA vaccine. This vaccine has been shown to help to protect those who are immunized from becoming sick with COVID-19. No serious side effects associated with this vaccine have been reported to date.

There is a limited supply of the Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA vaccine available in the initial phase of the vaccine program. As recommended by the COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force, and in alignment with the National Advisory Committee on Immunization, certain high-risk groups are recommended to receive COVID-19 vaccine first.

We are very excited to share that long-term care home staff, essential caregivers, support workers and other employees at long-term care homes are among this first group eligible for immunization.

We encourage you to get first in line to receive this vaccine and have included in this package additional information on the Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA vaccine and what to expect when receiving the vaccine. The benefits of vaccination greatly outweigh the risks, and many more illnesses and deaths would occur without vaccines. Vaccines prevent illness and disease and save lives. While the vaccine is voluntary, doing your part by getting vaccinated will protect people's lives and help Canada recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. You cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine.

In order for your body to build up protection against the virus, you will need to receive two doses of this vaccine, 21 days apart. We will work to ensure that the administration of the COVID-19 is done safely, appropriately and in a timely manner.

We are very pleased to share this exciting news with you and look forward to this new chapter in our fight against COVID-19!