

For Immediate Release

Tuesday, December 22, 2020

Halton Healthcare Administers first COVID-19 Vaccine in Halton

December 22, 2020 (Oakville, ON) – Halton Healthcare is pleased to announce that the first Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccination was administered in Halton Region today.

The first vaccination was received by Vanessa Jones, who works with vulnerable seniors at Northridge Long-Term Care Home in Oakville.

When asked why she was getting the vaccine, Vanessa said “I’m doing it for the seniors and all the people I love.”

The vaccine was administered by Sandra Nocent, a registered nurse at Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital (OTMH).

The Government of Ontario has identified certain priority groups of people to be vaccinated first. This includes health care workers from long-term care homes, retirement homes, hospitals and additional congregate settings that care for seniors.

Halton Healthcare is working with Halton Region Public Health and Joseph Brant Hospital to identify individuals to receive the first doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. The COVID-19 Vaccination Centre at OTMH is currently the only location in the region of Halton.

-30-

Quotes:

“We feel very privileged and proud to have been selected to set-up the first COVID-19 vaccination centre in Halton region and to provide this important inoculation to eligible health care workers. Everyone has been working so hard in the fight against COVID-19, to actually be administering first doses of this vaccine is truly remarkable. While news of the vaccine starting to be administered is exciting, it is important that we remain vigilant and continue to do everything we can to reduce the spread of COVID-19 by following all public health guidelines.”

Denise Hardenne, President & CEO, Halton Healthcare

“Today is another milestone in our response to the COVID-19 pandemic. I am very proud of our partnership with Halton Healthcare and we will continue to work together to provide the vaccine to our frontline healthcare workers. As I have said before, although the vaccine is great news, we still have a long road ahead of us. So please keep staying home, go out for essentials only and please do not gather indoors or outdoors with anyone outside of your immediate household.”

Dr. Hamidah Meghani, Halton Region Medical Officer of Health

“Thank you to everyone involved, including our Halton Healthcare partners and Halton Region Public Health for their tireless work to get this monumental vaccine to our frontline long-term care and healthcare workers. I would also like to thank Vanessa for volunteering to be the first of our long-term care workers in Halton to get the vaccine. I know I speak on behalf of our entire community when I say how grateful we are for those who continue to provide exceptional care to our vulnerable populations, especially over the holidays.”

Halton Region Chair Gary Carr

“Joseph Brant Hospital joins with our local healthcare partners in Halton to celebrate the first COVID-19 vaccine administered in Halton Region today. Together we must all continue to remain vigilant and true to the safety measures which have contributed to our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as the vaccine is distributed over the months ahead. We are incredibly proud of our healthcare teams who are fighting the COVID-19 pandemic every day to provide care to our community.”

Eric Vandewall, President & CEO, Joseph Brant Hospital

- 30 -

Contact:

Trish Carlton

Director, Communications & Public Affairs Department

Tel: 905-338-4668

tcarlton@haltonhealthcare.com

www.haltonhealthcare.com