For Immediate Release: March 8, 2021

Six Nations Opens COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic Site at Emily C. General Elementary School

On March 2, 2021, Six Nations opened a vaccination clinic at Emily C. General Elementary School and administered 154 doses of the Moderna vaccine. To date, 295 vaccines have been administered in the community.

Six Nations received another 200 doses of the Moderna vaccine on March 5. These doses will be administered at the vaccination clinic this week.

The COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force worked together with the Emergency Control Group to immediately set a pilot program in motion to vaccinate the remaining front-line workers and elder community members as outlined in the priority matrix.

Emily C. General Elementary School was selected as the community vaccination site because it was one of the best locations for flow of traffic, adequate refrigeration and airflow quality, and other vaccine requirements as identified in Ontario’s Ministry Guidelines. For strict safety and protocol reasons, vaccine doses are stored off-site from the clinic with security in place.

The vaccine pilot was a tremendous success and our teams were able to effectively utilize the registration and booking process and will ensure that it continues to run smoothly and efficiently for the community in the weeks and months ahead.

The clinic will continue to administer vaccines as they become available. All of Canada is currently struggling to procure vaccines, simply because the supply is not yet available to meet the demand.

Six Nations Elected Chief Mark B. Hill stated, “I will continue to stress to Canada and Ontario the need for a full community roll-out of vaccines to ensure that every Six Nations member who wants the vaccine can get it now. Our community is in a crisis and the vaccine is needed now.”

Vaccine appointments are being booked according to the vaccine priority matrix, which was approved by Elected Council on February 19.

Community members who are interested in receiving the vaccine are asked to pre-register to receive one online at www.sixnationscovid19.ca. Those who do not have access to the internet can pre-register for the COVID-19 vaccine by calling 226-227-9288 (Monday – Friday, 8:30am – 4:00pm). Please only utilize the phone number to pre-register if you are not able to access the online registration.

Public Health guidelines should continue to be followed throughout the vaccination process. People are still vulnerable to the possibility of being infected with COVID-19 during the time period.
between the first and second doses of the vaccine. The maximum level of immunity is achieved a few weeks after the second dose is administered. This timing will vary according to the vaccine product and if two doses are necessary as determined by the vaccine type. All vaccines being administered are approved and regulated by Health Canada.

Community members are reminded that once the two-dose vaccination period is complete for the majority of the community, it continues to be everyone’s responsibility to do their part to slow the spread of COVID-19. The following Public Health guidelines will remain in place:

- Stay home
- Practice physical distancing
- Wear a properly-fitted face mask
- Wash your hands and sanitize commonly-touched surfaces often

Everyone must continue to do their part to monitor themselves for symptoms and report even the mildest symptoms to either the Ohsweken Public Health office at 519-445-2672 or the Six Nations COVID-19 Assessment Centre at 1-855-977-7737 or at 226-446-9909. Community members are reminded that it is possible to contract and spread COVID-19 without displaying any symptoms.

If you think you may have come into contact with a positive case of COVID-19, or if you are displaying symptoms, book a test at the COVID-19 Assessment Centre by phone at 1-855-977-7737 or 226-446-9909. Tests can also be booked online at www.sixinationscovid19.ca.

More detailed vaccination information will be distributed as it becomes available through community mailboxes, local newspapers and radio stations, our websites, and our social media accounts.

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This group, which includes residents of long-term care facilities such as the Iroquois Lodge or the Jay Silverheels Complex, is the highest priority group in receiving the vaccine. This is because they are at a high risk of developing severe symptoms if they become sick with COVID-19. It is also because it is difficult to limit the spread of the virus because there is a large amount of people living close together in long-term care facilities. This makes it easier for people to get sick. This is especially concerning for our elders living in the Iroquois Lodge, which is why they have been made the highest priority in receiving the vaccine.

This group includes, but is not limited to, people who have a lower risk of developing severe symptoms if they become sick with COVID-19, but are at a higher risk of being exposed to the virus because of their job or their living situation. This includes people like frontline workers who have close contact with the public, are unable to work from home, and do not have as much control over their risk of being exposed to the virus. Examples of people falling into this category include first responders (fire, ambulance, police), those living in congregate care settings (shelters, group homes, etc.), homecare health workers (PSW's, etc.), and primary/frontline healthcare workers.

This group includes the elderly (60+), and those who are immunocompromised receiving home care. This category of people are at a higher risk of developing severe symptoms if they become sick with COVID-19. However, it is easier for this group to reduce their risk of being exposed to COVID-19. They can stay home, limit contact to only those within their immediate household and care providers, and use personal protective equipment (PPE) such as masks and face shields.

This group includes populations that have a low risk of developing severe symptoms if they become sick with COVID-19 and/or are able to better protect themselves from the virus by following public health guidelines (staying home, limiting contact to those within their household, wearing a mask, etc.). This would include most of the general public and those who are able to work from home or have limited or no contact with clients when working on-site.