



A message from Tony

We have been on a difficult journey through 2020, a year of uncertainty, a year of personal loss, and a year of tremendous sacrifice. For many, 2021 was more than just the start of a new year. It was the symbolic turning of a page, and with that the hope and optimism that we could return to "personal normalcy" - life as we knew it before the pandemic. We are on that journey to ending this pandemic but there is still much to accomplish.

Safe and effective vaccines are crucial in our fight against COVID-19 and will help end this pandemic. On Tuesday, the Prime Minister announced the procurement of 20 million additional vaccine doses. From our agreements with Moderna and Pfizer alone, we will now have 80 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines arriving this year. We are on track to have every Canadian who wants a vaccine receive one by September and will have enough doses to vaccinate up to 20 million Canadians between April and June.

Major-General Dany Fortin, Vice President of logistics for Public Health Agency Canada and the military commander leading Canada's COVID-19 vaccine logistics, indicated this week that in April Canada will shift from phase one to a ramped-up phase with the expectation that manufacturers will start delivering up to one million doses a week.

But until then, we must all do our part to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and keep each other safe by following public health measures. Please stay informed and respect the requests of our health experts. Together, we can beat this virus and together we can build back better.

COVID-19 Vaccine Facts and Figures



Latest numbers

The numbers below are the total COVID-19 vaccine confirmed distribution as of January 14, 2021:

- Canada: 765,100
 - Pfizer/BioNTech: 588,900
 - Moderna: 176,200
- Ontario: 277,050
 - Pfizer/BioNTech: 224,250
 - Moderna: 52,800

The total vaccine confirmed distribution chart and the forecasted allocation of vaccines to the Provinces and Territories can be found here.

This website is updated every week.



Vaccine information

This week, the Prime Minister announced that we have reached another agreement with Pfizer to buy an additional 20 million doses of their COVID-19 vaccine.

By securing the most diverse portfolio of vaccines, with seven agreements, and the most number of doses per capita in the world, our plan remains on track.

To date, Canada has secured enough doses to ensure every Canadian has access to a free COVID-19 vaccine by September 30, 2021.

We are focusing on earliest deliveries possible and starting with the most vulnerable.



Temporary delay from Pfizer

Representatives from Pfizer Canada recently informed Minister Anand that due to work to expand its European manufacturing facility, production of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine will be impacted for a short period. This means that Pfizer is temporarily reducing deliveries to all countries receiving vaccines manufactured at its European facility - and that includes Canada.

This temporary delay in deliveries will have no impact on our long-term vaccination plan. We remain on track to have enough vaccines for every Canadian who wishes to be vaccinated by the end of September.

Continuing to support Canadians during COVID-19



For Newmarket—Aurora

Through the Safe Restart Agreement, the Town of Aurora will receive \$549,000 and the Town of Newmarket will receive \$769,000 in funding to help alleviate municipal deficits from overages due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Regional Municipality of York will receive \$9,921,000 to maintain essential services and support critical infrastructure projects vital to our region and Canada's economic recovery.

Additionally, the [Regional Relief and Recovery Fund \(R2F\)](#) is providing over \$1.5 billion in assistance to businesses and communities that may require additional help to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, but have been unable to access other support measures.



For Businesses

The [Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy \(CERS\)](#) provides a direct and easy-to-access rent and mortgage subsidy of up to 65% of eligible expenses to qualifying organizations. This support is available directly to tenants.

Additionally, organizations who have been significantly restricted by a mandatory public health order may be eligible for an additional 25% of rent support through the Lockdown Support.

The [Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy \(CEWS\)](#) is available to employers who have seen a drop in revenue due to the pandemic to help re-hire workers, prevent further job losses and ease businesses back into normal operations.



For Individuals

We've made temporary changes to the [Employment Insurance \(EI\)](#) Program to continue to support Canadians who need financial assistance. As of September 27, 2020, the minimum benefit rate is \$500 per week before taxes in most cases.

If you are not eligible for EI, you may be eligible for the following new benefits:

The [Canada Recovery Benefit \(CRB\)](#) provides \$500 per week for up to 26 weeks for workers who stopped working or had their income reduced by at least 50 per cent.

The [Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit \(CRSB\)](#) provides \$500 per week for up to a maximum of two weeks for workers who are unable to work for at least 50 per cent of the week because they contracted COVID-19, are self-isolated for reasons related to COVID-19, or have underlying conditions, are undergoing treatments or have contracted other sicknesses that make them more susceptible to COVID-19.

The [Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit \(CRCB\)](#) provides \$500 per week for up to 26 weeks per household for workers unable to work for at least 50 per cent of the week because they must care for a child under the age of 12 or family member whose care facility is closed due to COVID-19 or who is sick, required to quarantine or at high risk of health implications.

We are taking immediate action to ensure the CRB, CRSB, and CRCB do not impact people to disregard the clear public health advice against travelling abroad.



For Seniors

We are supporting older Canadians during the COVID-19 pandemic by:

- Reducing minimum withdrawals for [Registered Retirement Income Funds](#)

- Supporting community services and supports, such as the delivery of items and personal outreach through [United Way Canada](#) and other organizations

- Providing a [one-time tax-free payment](#) to help seniors cover increased costs caused by COVID-19

- Temporarily extending the [Guaranteed Income Supplement](#) and allowance payments

If you receive [Canada Pension Plan Disability \(CPPD\)](#), you may be eligible for other provincial or territorial support, including [COVID-19 emergency benefits](#).

We are investing \$1 billion for long-term care homes through a Safe Long-Term Care Fund to support the Provinces and Territories in protecting residents and staff, training 4,000 personal support worker interns, and upgrading long-term care homes.

To protect our seniors, we are also committed to setting new, national standards for long-term care, and developing criminal code amendments for senior neglect.

Additionally, seniors across Canada are using [Wellness Together Canada](#) to get free professional support for their mental health.



Community Champions



Newmarket Food Pantry

The COVID-19 pandemic has been challenging to every Canadian, but especially to the most vulnerable in our communities.

The Newmarket Food Pantry, its volunteers, donors and community partners have played an essential role in fighting hunger in our community during these challenging times.



Aurora Food Pantry

We've seen unprecedented numbers of individuals incurring unexpected expenses, illnesses, or other loss of income, and struggling to put food on their tables.

The Aurora Food Pantry, its volunteers, donors and community partners have been key in ensuring that individuals in our community don't go hungry.



Getting ready for tax season



COVID-19 emergency benefits T4 forms

Due to the unprecedented financial hardship brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, millions of Canadians were supported by our government's emergency or recovery benefits, which are considered taxable income.

Between early January and March 10, 2021, Canadians will begin receiving T4A slips from the CRA, so when filing their 2020 income tax and benefit return they can enter the total of the amounts they received last year.

The T4A is virtually identical to the T4 slips Canadians usually receive, but rather than employment income, they provide the amounts of COVID-19 emergency and recovery benefits received from the CRA in 2020.

The CRA remains committed to putting *People First* and to supporting Canadians as they continue to do their part to limit the spread of COVID-19.



Claiming a deduction for home office expenses

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, an unprecedented number of employees are now working from home. In response, the CRA has simplified the way Canadians can claim their home office expenses on their personal income tax return for the 2020 tax year.

Employees who worked from home more than 50 per cent of the time over a period of at least four consecutive weeks in 2020 due to COVID-19 will now be eligible to claim the home office expenses deduction for 2020.

A new temporary flat rate method will allow eligible employees to claim a deduction of \$2 for each day they worked at home in that period, plus any other days they worked from home in 2020 for up to a maximum of \$400.

Under this new method, this year, employees will not have to get Form T2200 or Form T2200S completed and signed by their employer.



Canada Summer Jobs

Did you know up to 120,000 job opportunities will be available to young Canadians through the Canada Summer Jobs program this year? This represents a 50 percent increase from the job opportunities in 2020 and it means more employers and youth will be able to benefit from the program.

The deadline for the employer application is January 29.



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