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132-2020-5430  
**By email**

January 27, 2021

Margaret Carter  
Executive Director  
Ontario Dental Hygienists Association  
[mcarter@odha.on.ca](mailto:mcarter@odha.on.ca)

Dear Margaret Carter:

Thank you for your email regarding the COVID-19 vaccine. As a valued stakeholder that plays a critical role in our health care system, we appreciate hearing your perspective on behalf of the Ontario Dental Hygienists Association.

On December 14, 2020, Ontario launched the first phase of the three-phased implementation plan of Ontario's COVID-19 vaccine program. As recommended by the Minister's COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force and in alignment with the National Advisory Committee on Immunization, the province has identified key populations to receive the vaccine as part of Phase One. This includes health care workers, including dentists. However, given restrictions in vaccine supply, the government's approach is data-driven and focuses on population groups that are at greatest risks of COVID-19, which was the basis of the [ethical framework](#) for COVID-19 vaccine distribution.

As announced on [January 25, 2021](#), in response to the significant reduction in allocations by the federal government as well as significant uncertainty regarding future shipments, the province and vaccination sites have worked together to develop a plan to accelerate vaccination of the province's most vulnerable and continue to administer second doses based on availability of supply provided by the federal government.

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Ontario's supply of COVID-19 vaccines is reliant on the Government of Canada's procurement capabilities and allocation methodology. The Task Force is prepared for these supply fluctuations and will update Ontario's vaccine rollout plan, as required.

Dental Hygienists are within the health care worker population which are prioritized for vaccination as more vaccines are delivered to the province.

To stay informed about the Ontario's Vaccine plan please visit: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca>.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Sincerely,



Christine Elliott  
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health



Sylvia Jones  
Solicitor General