

c/o President & CEO  
Alberta Health Services  
Seventh Street Plaza  
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10030 – 107 Street NW Edmonton, Alberta T5J 3E4

January 29, 2021

EZMSA Office  
Suite 201 12315 Stony Plain Road NW  
Edmonton, AB  
T5N 3Y8

Dear Dr. Verna Yiu:

**Re: Alberta's Pandemic Vaccination Questions**

The Edmonton Zone Medical Staff Association's (EZMSA) Strategic COVID-19 Pandemic Committee has been receiving questions and concerns about the COVID-19 immunization planning from Edmonton Zone physicians, allied health professionals, patients and the general public. Despite a diversity of expertise on the committee, it is often difficult to provide answers and when we cannot, even more difficult to identify the relevant individuals or organizations with the responsibility to answer these questions or alleviate these concerns.

The following provide some examples of the questions and concerns we have received to date. We would appreciate knowing to whom they should be directed.

- I have a patient who works in a meat packing plant. They have had one serious outbreak that lasted months. When will they be eligible for immunization?
- I have a 45 year-old Edmonton patient with multiple health care issues including obesity and chronic kidney disease due to diabetes. When will they be eligible for immunization?
- I have many patients with co-morbidities. Will they be eligible for earlier immunization? Which co-morbidities are important and how many of them must they have to qualify? Will I need to write them a note?
- We have received multiple reports from physicians with patients in their 70's, 80's and older who are becoming anxious and depressed waiting for news of when they will be immunized and how they will be informed.
- My practice is in neighborhood with many indigenous people and people of color as residents. It is also poor, with many people for whom English is not a first language. This increases our risk of getting COVID and having a serious outcome. How are you going to ensure that our neighborhood has the resources it need to be immunized in a fair and timely way that does not leave anyone out.



We would greatly appreciate any help you can provide as to whom we should direct these questions and concerns.

We note that British Columbia has recently released a readily accessible and detailed plan as to how immunizations will be delivered and to whom in that province. It would be helpful if a similar document was available in Alberta.

Sincerely,

Dr. James Talbot

Dr. Noel Gibney  
Co-Chairs Strategic COVID-19 Pandemic Committee  
Edmonton Zone Medical Staff Association

AF/bjh

CC: Dr. Francois Belanger, Vice President of Quality and Chief Medical Officer, AHS  
Dr. David Zygun, Edmonton Zone Medical Director, AHS  
Dr. Jennifer Bestard, Chair Physician COVID-19 Vaccination Roll-Out Working Group, AHS  
Honourable Tyler Shandro, Minister of Health, Alberta Health  
Lorna Rosen, Deputy Minister, Alberta Health  
Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Alberta Health  
Trish Merrithew-Mercredi, Assistant Deputy Minister Public Health and Compliance Division, Alberta Health  
Dr. Paul Boucher, President, Alberta Medical Association  
Dr. Erika MacIntyre, President, EZMSA