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EMAIL: Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Update

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Dear Residents and Families of Sienna Residences,

We are writing to provide you with a brief update regarding the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

Pfizer BioNTech Vaccine Delays.

As you may be aware, due to a reduction in the production of the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine, Canada will not receive any deliveries of the vaccine for the week of January 25. This will create subsequent reductions in the amount of vaccine delivered for the first two weeks of February. As a result of this reduction, provincial governments have temporarily paused all first doses of the vaccine, with the exception of residents in LTC and high-risk retirement residences. For those who have received the first dose, residents, as well as staff or essential caregivers who are over the age of 70, will be prioritized as first to receive the second dose of the vaccine within safe and approved timelines.

At this time, there are no expected delays in the delivery of the Moderna vaccine to Canada.

Second Dose of the Pfizer BioNTech Vaccine.

With these delays, we wanted to provide you with some additional information regarding appropriate timelines for receiving the second dose.

[The National Advisory Committee on Immunization](#) (NACI) has guidelines on the administration schedule of the Pfizer vaccine, which indicates that extending the administration of the second dose beyond the initial recommended 28-day period still provides a good level of protection against the virus. NACI further explains that for many other multi-dose vaccines provided in adulthood, the greatest proportion of short-term protection is achieved with the first dose, with additional doses primarily intended to extend protection over the longer term.

While a second dose of the vaccine will be required to achieve maximum protection, the first dose will still offer you protection in the immediate term, as described by Chief Infection Prevention and Control Consultant, Dr. Allison McGeer in this [short video clip](#).

We encourage you to access the following resources for further information and insight into how the vaccines and related processes work.

- [COVID-19 vaccines for Ontario](#)
- [Sienna Vaccine Response Centre](#)

Thank you again for your support and understanding as we work together to safeguard residents, families and each other.