



March 2, 2021

KATRINA NOKLEBY
MLA, GREAT SLAVE

Oral Question 499-19(2): Health Care Services to Seniors During the Pandemic

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on February 4, 2021 regarding Health Care Services to Seniors During the Pandemic.

As you know, seniors in all communities have been prioritized for the vaccine, as the risk of COVID-19 severity increases after age 60. Most vulnerable in this category are those who live in long-term care facilities or in shared living environments. As such, vaccine clinics have been provided to seniors in all 33 communities. It should be noted, however, that while we have provided seniors with the opportunity, it remains their choice as to whether or not they get the COVID-19 vaccine.

The NWT Bureau of Statistics works with Statistics Canada to provide approximate population numbers for the NWT. As of July 2020, the NWT population 60 years old and older is 6594 persons. Of those, up to January 30, 2021, 4899 were given the first dose of the Moderna vaccine. This equates to approximately 75%. As with all data, these numbers are based on approximate population growth since the last census of 2016. At this time, it is too soon to have accurate numbers of second doses given to seniors. Second doses for long-term care facilities wrapped up the week of February 8, 2021, and roll out of second doses to other residents 60 or over will take place over the subsequent 4-6 weeks.

Further, first and second dose vaccine administration statistics are subject to change throughout the vaccination roll out. The most complete and accurate information will only be available once the campaign is concluded. As we begin to administer second doses, there will be people who change their mind or who were not available when the first dose of the vaccine was provided. Any seniors who missed the clinic in their community will have another opportunity when the teams return to deliver second doses. Additionally, anyone who missed their opportunity to receive the vaccine in their home community will be able to receive it in another community when clinics are offered. New clinic dates are updated regularly on the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services website at the following link:

<https://www.nthssa.ca/en/services/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-updates/covid-vaccine>

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If a senior or anyone else has additional questions, please feel free to contact the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer at CPHO@gov.nt.ca.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JAGreen". The letters are cursive and fluid, with the first name "Julie" and the last name "Green" written in a single continuous stroke.

Julie Green
Minister of Health and Social Services

c Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Legislative Coordinator
Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs