

December 18, 2020

AMO Policy Update – Additional COVID-19 Vaccine Sites, ESA Termination and Severance Provisions Extension

Additional COVID-19 Vaccine Rolling Out

Ontario will be distributing [additional doses of the Pfizer vaccine to 17 more hospital sites](#) throughout the province over the next two weeks, including regions with the highest rates of COVID-19 infection. This is part of the initial phase of the government's [three-phase vaccine implementation plan](#) that began on December 14th in Toronto and Ottawa.

Ontario is expecting to receive up to 90,000 Pfizer-BioNTech doses from the federal government before the end of the year to continue vaccinating health care workers and essential caregivers who work in hospitals, long-term care homes, retirement homes, and other congregate settings caring for seniors.

During this initial phase, Ontario is expecting to receive doses of the Moderna vaccine – once approved by Health Canada – which will allow vaccines to be provided at long-term care homes in lockdown areas, followed by retirement homes, other congregate care settings for seniors, and remote Indigenous communities. In early 2021, additional hospital sites across the province will be administering additional Pfizer vaccines to health care workers, as well as essential caregivers, and long-term care home and retirement home residents.

Extension of Temporary Relief from ESA Termination and Severance Provisions

The Ontario government has extended the temporary relief measures from the termination and severance provisions of the *Employment Standards Act, 2000* (ESA) as of December 17, 2020 until **July 3, 2021**. The temporary measures are found in [Ontario Regulation 228/20](#), Infectious Disease Emergency Leave (IDEL Regulation), and had been set to expire January 2, 2021. The IDEL Regulation [has been amended](#) to define the “COVID-19 period” as that period beginning on March 1, 2020 and

ending on July 3, 2021. Additional Hicks Morley information can be found [here](#).

AMO's [COVID-19 Resources](#) page is being updated continually so you can find critical information in one place. Please send any of your municipally related pandemic questions to covid19@amo.on.ca.