



BI-WEEKLY TSN

MEMBER UPDATE FROM THE TORONTO SHELTER NETWORK



COVID-19 AND VACCINES

Frontline workers in congregate settings can now book third dose COVID-19 vaccine appointments by:

1. Booking online via the **Provincial booking system**.
2. Scheduling an onsite mobile clinic **online** or by contacting SSHAcovidvaccine@toronto.ca to be connected to a team lead.
3. Booking an appointment in advance at a local **pharmacy** (some allow walk-ins.) **Some hospital vaccination clinics** offer third doses by appointment or drop in. Check with the pharmacy or hospital before you go.

- When attending a clinic, frontline workers should bring proof of employment verifying their eligibility (e.g. employment ID badge, or a letter from your employer).
- Click **HERE** to view COVID-19 Third Dose recommendations. Appendix B states that shelter workers are eligible for the booster dose.
- TSN will work with SSHA and TPH to facilitate access for third dose booster vaccines at upcoming flu and vaccine clinics and ensure that these vaccines will also be accessible to shelter sector staff as well as clients.

FLU SHOTS

Toronto Public Health (TPH) has launched its annual flu vaccination campaign and is collaborating with Inner City Health Associates (ICHA) to offer the flu vaccine to individuals in shelters, 24-hour respite sites and drop-in settings. The flu shot can be administered at the same time as the COVID-19 vaccine, one in each arm.

How to book a flu vaccination clinic:

- Book a mobile clinic online: <https://s.tphsurvey.chkmt.com/?e=240440&h=D0C094F37BA38A6&l=en>
- Contact SSHAcovidvaccine@toronto.ca and Shelter, Support and Housing Administration will connect you with a team lead.
- Email Linda Godfrey Linda.Godfrey@toronto.ca from TPH to book a one- time visit, or reoccurring clinic.

**Next vaccine leads meeting with TSN and SSHA:
Friday, November 26th, 2021 at 10:00AM-11:00AM**

WEBINARS AND EVENTS:

FAMILY MATTERS VACCINATION DISCUSSION PANEL

TUESDAY NOVEMBER
30th
1:00 pm-2:00 pm

To Join the panel
discussion please click
HERE for the Zoom link

Meeting ID: 811 8334
8960
Passcode: 133960

UPCOMING SECTOR MEETINGS

Women's Sector:
December 1st 2021-
10:00AM - 12:00PM
Youth Sector:
December 3rd 2021-
10:00AM- 12:00PM

CAMPAIGN VACCINATION TORONTO

Through its Peer Champion initiative, TSN has been working with shelter sites to support vaccination rollout efforts and improve uptake coverage for its service users. TSN is currently expanding its pool of Peer Champions beyond priority shelter sites (i.e., sites with less than 50% vaccine uptake rate). Please contact Maiesha Rahman at maiesharahman.tsn@gmail.com if your site is interested in participating in the initiative or would like to request a Peer Champion/Ambassador visit to support your on-site vaccination activities.

COVID-19 TRANSITION PLAN UPDATE

This newsletter will now include updates about the COVID-19 Transition Plan. For this week, here is a brief update:

- City Council adopted **SSHA's 2022 Shelter Infrastructure Plan**, which introduced initial information about the COVID-19 Transition Plan (see pages 12 to 15 for details).
- **TSN submitted a letter** of support about the Infrastructure Plan to Committee and Council.
- The City issued a **news release** summarizing the reports adopted by Council on Nov 12 (the three-year Service Plan and 2022 Infrastructure Plan). It shared SSHA's commitment to developing of an operational plan to transition out of COVID-19 hotel response sites. The timing of this transition will be based on any future changes to public health guidance, ongoing assessment of shelter demand, and availability of supportive housing opportunities. The City plans to continue current response efforts, which includes continuing to provide services at temporary shelter sites to support physical distancing measures until at least April 2022.
- SSHA will be working with TSN to get input from service providers on the Transition Plan. The next opportunities for input are the upcoming All Members Meetings on Nov 24 and Dec 2.
- SSHA will also be reaching out to temporary site operators to begin site-specific planning in the coming weeks.

HARM REDUCTION RESOURCES

SSHA created a self-assessment checklist that is intended as a tool to support shelter, respite and 24-hour drop-in sites to identify what they have in place to support an integrated harm reduction approach at their site, and what things they will need to do align with the SSHA Harm Reduction Directive 2021-01. SSHA is asking all shelter, respite and 24-hour drop-in sites to submit their completed check list by Wednesday, November 24th, 2021. SSHA will use the information from the self-assessments to identify and prioritize supports and resources that may be needed to support harm reduction integration across the shelter system.

Harm Reduction Self-Assessment Checklist can be accessed by clicking the link below

<https://s.cotsurvey.chkmkt.com/?e=246014&h=A81813699E50B61&l=en>

If you have questions, please contact Karen Tizzard, SSHA-Harm Reduction Coordinator at Karen.Tizzard@toronto.ca or 647-454-2614.

WEBINARS AND EVENTS:

ALL MEMBER MEETING

This month, our theme is: **Re-Imagining Toronto's Shelter System**

Wednesday, November 24th at 1:00 pm

We will be joined by consulting partners:

- **BMG Group** - Hear about the **Shelter Conversion Project and steps taken by Homes First to re-imagine possibilities for their shelter program**
- **KPMG** - Learn about next steps planned for the **Re-Imagining Toronto's Shelter System Project and the steps we are taking as a sector to inform SSHA's shelter transition planning**

If you have not received a calendar invite with the zoom details, please register on our eventbrite **HERE!**

Current Vaccination Status at Reporting Shelter Locations:

All programs:

- 71% have received first dose!
- 60% are fully vaccinated!

- POS Shelters are at 68% vaccinated!
- DOS shelters are at 72% vaccinated!

Youth programs:

- 72% have received their first dose!
- 60% are fully vaccinated!

