



Update from Tony Van Bynen, MP Newmarket-Aurora

COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

We have recently reached two important milestones in our fight against COVID-19. On February 26, Health Canada authorized the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine, as well as the Serum Institute of India's version, Covishield, for use in Canada. On March 5, Health Canada authorized the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.

As of March 8, more than 2.2 million vaccine doses have been administered to Canadians, more than 2.9 million doses have been delivered to the provinces and territories, and more doses are on their way. Last week, we received our largest shipment of vaccines to date, 944,600 doses of Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines. This week, Canada is set to receive 911,400 doses of Pfizer and Moderna vaccines.

With Pfizer, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Janssen authorized for use in Canada, we are working hard to send more vaccines to the provinces and territories each day. We will receive 8 million doses by the end of March, 36.5 million by the end of June, and 117.9 million by the end of the summer. We are well within our timeline to have enough vaccines for all Canadians by the end of September.

As provinces and territories move to vaccinate Canadians as quickly as possible, it's important that we continue doing our part to reduce the rate of infection. Please continue to follow local public health guidelines, stay home as much as possible, wear a mask, avoid non-essential travel and use COVID Alert.

Together, we will stop the chain of infections and get through this.

[More information:](#)

[Vaccine distributions](#)

[Vaccine administration](#)

Wage and Rent Subsidy Amounts to Remain Unchanged Through June

As of February 21, 2021, more than 5 million Canadian employees have had their jobs supported through the [Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy](#) (CEWS) with more than \$66 billion paid out, and more than 129,000 organizations have been supported by the [Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy](#) (CERS) with more than \$1.6 billion paid out.

On March 3, the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, announced that the government intends to extend the current rate structures for these subsidies from March 14 to June 5.

- ✓ the maximum wage subsidy rate for active employees would remain at 75 per cent;
- ✓ the maximum rent subsidy rate would remain at 65 per cent; and
- ✓ Lockdown Support would remain at 25 per cent and continue to be provided in addition to the rent subsidy, providing eligible hard hit businesses with rent support of up to 90 per cent.

These extensions would provide certainty and continued support for workers, businesses and other affected organizations in the face of ongoing challenges presented by the pandemic.

For more information, please read the [backgrounder](#).

Supporting Arts and Live Events Workers in Response to COVID-19

In the Fall Economic Statement 2020, our government set a total of \$181.5 million aside to support the planning and execution of COVID-19 safe events. On March 1, the Honourable Stephen Guilbeault, Minister of Canadian Heritage, announced details for the funds supporting arts and live events workers in response to COVID-19.

Information on how to access the new fund will be available shortly on the Canadian Heritage Website.

For more information, please read the [backgrounder](#).

Filing your taxes for the 2020 year

As a result of COVID-19, this tax season is like no other, but we are working hard to assist taxpayers experiencing tax-related concerns or financial hardships due to the pandemic. Filing online is the fastest and most secure way to do your taxes, but the CRA will continue to support those who chose to file on paper or by phone.

Filing on time, with the right information, will ensure you continue to receive benefit and credit payments, such as the Canada Child Benefit, the various COVID recovery benefits, the Old Age Security Pension Payments, and the goods and services tax (GST)/ harmonized sales tax (HST) credit. To most, including those who owe a tax debt, the deadline to file is April 30, 2021.

Here are some key things you should know for this filing season:

[Business or professional income](#)

[Home office expenses for employees](#)

[Emergency and recovery benefit income](#)

My offices are open for inquiries and assistance via e-mail at Tony.VanBynen@parl.gc.ca or by phone at 905-953-7515. To help reduce the spread of COVID-19, we are not accepting in person appointments.

You can also sign up to receive bi-weekly e-mail updates on vanbynen.ca/get-updates.