

Councillor Paul W. Ainslie
City of Toronto Councillor
Ward 24 Scarborough-Guildwood

Chair, General Government and Licensing Committee Chair, Board of Management of the Toronto Zoo



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April 15, 2021

Honourable Christine Elliott, MPP Ministry of Health 777 Bay St., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Minister Elliot,

As the City Councillor for Scarborough-Guildwood with the highest number of COVID-19 cases in the Province I was shocked and disappointed with the cancellation of two pivotal vaccination sites at the Scarborough Health Network Centenary Site and Centennial College Progress Campus. Scarborough residents are in crisis, we need the Province to act now before the situation escalates further.

Scarborough with a population of 632,000 make up 22% of the population of Toronto, yet the level of vaccine we have received to date is no where near 22%. Not even close. Our communities are made up of 73% visible minorities where COVID-19 has disproportionally affected multigenerational households. The Province has been aware of this, yet the planning to address a surge was not put in place. Scarborough is also home to residents who work hard to support their families with a majority unable to work from home. Not vaccinating those who could not work from home earlier has also added to these devasting consequences that we are now facing in our community as whole. Hospitals, schools and neighbourhoods are all part of the community.

The closures at the Scarborough Health Network Centenary Site and Centennial College Progress Campus will decrease vaccination efforts by approximately 2000 vaccinations a day, putting 2000 residents a day at continued risk.

We have been advised as of April 14, a total of 4,809,595 COVID-19 doses from the Government of Canada, yet the Government of Ontario has only administered 3,422,974 doses. We need an explanation on why the Scarborough Health Network was originally advised they would be receiving enough vaccinations for 10,000 appointments, then were denied the doses.

The three hospitals situated within the Scarborough Health Network (SHN Birchmount, SHN Centenary, and SHN General) service over 632,000 Scarborough residents, and have seen the highest rate of COVID-19 admissions in the City of Toronto. This has led the City of Toronto to declare all of Scarborough's postal codes as "hot spot" priority neighbourhoods.

I am calling on yourself as the Ontario Minister of Health and the Province of Ontario to act now to protect the health and safety of Scarborough residents.

Sincerely,

Paul W. Ainslie

City of Toronto Councillor

Ward 24 Scarborough-Guildwood

c.c. Eileen de Villa, Medical Officer of Health, City of Toronto M.P.P. Mitzie Hunter, Scarborough-Guildwood M.P. Hon. John Mckay, Scarborough-Guildwood