

# INDIGENOUS PRIORITIZATION FOR VACCINATION

In Phase I of the vaccine rollout, key populations were identified as priority groups to receive the vaccine first. Similarly, with third, or booster doses, specific groups have been prioritized. This is based on varying factors, such as risk for severe illness and death, as well as risk of transmission for those living and working in conditions that increase the chance getting or spreading COVID.



## Indigenous Communities and Indigenous Peoples were Identified as **One of the Priority Groups**\*

Limited information was provided to the public as to why Indigenous communities and peoples were identified as a priority group, this has led to;

- Vaccine hesitancy in Indigenous people (based on historical experiences)
- Indigenous peoples facing ongoing racism



## Why a Priority Group?

### Indigenous Peoples

- Have higher rates of underlying medical conditions known to increase risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19.
- Experience greater mortality rates than overall Canadian population (when adjusting for population structure differences).

### Indigenous Communities

- Many live in multi-generational households, in which overcrowding leads to greater transmission of COVID.
- Many remote and isolate communities experience limited access to health care services, resulting in insufficient capacity to respond to severe COVID-19 impacts. As a result, the risk for severe outcomes including death and societal disruption is greater.
- Many communities were disproportionately impacted by past pandemics (i.e., 2009 H1N1).
- Many communities require special consideration of issues related to equity, feasibility, and acceptability.



\*<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/ontarios-covid-19-vaccination-plan#our-three-phased-vaccination-plan>