

Ministry of Health

COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Individuals who received a first dose of the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine

Version 3.0 – June 14, 2021

This document provides basic information only and is not intended to provide or take the place of medical advice, diagnosis or treatment, or legal advice.

Getting a first dose of AstraZeneca /COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine was the right thing to do. It is protecting you and others from severe illness.

A second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine is needed for the best protection against COVID-19. Being fully vaccinated is especially important because it provides much better protection than only one dose against the new delta variant of COVID-19 that is now in Ontario.

If you had an AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD (AZ) COVID-19 vaccine as your first dose, you have a choice about the type of vaccine you would like for your second dose.

Make sure any questions you may have are answered by a health care professional.

1. **Receive AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine for my second dose 8-12 weeks following my first dose**
2. **Receive an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) for my second dose 8-12 weeks following my first dose**

This document will help you to decide what choice is right for you.

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) has said that it is safe to 'mix' vaccine types to complete a series, and so if you received an AZ vaccine as your first dose, it is safe to receive an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) as a second dose. More information about NACI's [recommendations](#) can be found on their website.

Here is what we know about mixing:

- Early studies suggest that getting an mRNA vaccine after the first dose of an AZ vaccine may create a better immune response, including against variants of concern, than a second dose of AZ vaccine. Several studies are ongoing to assess this further. It is possible that a better immune response with the mixed schedule will mean better protection and/or longer duration of protection. We are continuing to learn about this.
- There is a possibility of increased short-term side effects after the second dose when using different vaccine types, including headache, fatigue and muscle aches.

Two doses of AZ provide good protection against symptomatic COVID-19 and severe outcomes, like hospitalizations and death. You may get your second dose of AZ vaccine any time after 8 weeks.

- Clinical trials showed that AZ vaccine offers the best protection when the two doses are spread out by 12 weeks. When the doses were spread out by ≥ 12 weeks, it provided an estimated 82% protection against symptomatic disease. When the two doses were given closer together (9-12 weeks), protection was estimated at 69%.

The AZ vaccine has been linked with a very rare but serious blood clotting disease called Vaccine-Induced Immune Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia, or VITT.* This is a condition that can be very serious and hard to treat. According to reports from several countries including Canada, there is around 1 case of VITT for every 55,000 people given dose 1 of AstraZeneca. For dose 2, the risk of VITT is estimated to be 1 for every 600,000 vaccinated. These estimates may change as more people around the world have dose 2 and we learn more. The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines do not cause VITT.

*To learn more about VITT, see the Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table document: [Vaccine-Induced Immune Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia \(VITT\) Following Adenovirus Vector COVID-19 Vaccination: Lay Summary - Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table](#)

- Option 1: Receive AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine for my second dose**
- Option 2: Receive an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine for my second dose**
- I have had the opportunity to ask questions regarding the vaccine I am receiving and to have them answered to my satisfaction.**

To be filled in if direct entry into COVAX_{ON} is not possible:

Last Name	First Name
Date of Birth	Identification number (e.g., health card, passport, birth certificate, driver's license)
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