
SUBJECT: Recommended Second Dose Intervals
Date: April 22, 2021
Pages: 2
To: Primary Care Providers and Pharmacists
From: Dr. Nicola Mercer, Medical Officer of Health & CEO

Pharmacy and Primary Care offering AstraZeneca:

- Pharmacists and primary care providers offering the AstraZeneca vaccine need to inform each patient of their expected second dose interval and ensure the patient has a second dose appointment booked.
- All second dose appointments for AstraZeneca should be booked following the recommended second dose intervals defined below.
- For your patients who have received an mRNA vaccine at a WDGPH mass vaccine clinic, WDGPH will follow up directly with the patient and book their second dose appointment.

Recommended Second Dose Intervals:

Vaccine	Standard second dose interval	Second dose interval exceptions
Pfizer	16 weeks	26 days
Moderna	16 weeks	26 days
AstraZeneca	16 weeks	12 weeks

Second Dose Interval Exceptions:

There are a limited number of exceptions to the standard, 16-week interval between the first and second vaccine dose. Second dose exceptions do NOT include the patient's essential caregiver. The ONLY exceptions are:

- Patients on stable, active treatment (chemotherapy, targeted therapy, immunotherapy) for malignant hematologic disorders or nonhematologic malignant solid tumors
- Transplant recipients (including solid organ transplants and hematopoietic stem cell transplants)¹

Action Required from Health Care Providers:

Some of your patients may have had a vaccination at a public health clinic prior to the change in second dose interval guidance. For patients who received an mRNA vaccine at a public health clinic and meet the criteria for a second dose interval exception, fax attached the attached form to WDGPH **1-855-934-5463**. For multiple patients, you may submit a list directly from your EMR. Please include:

- Name and contact information for each patient
- Reason for referral
- Contact name and number for the referring the health care provider for follow up
- Indicate “For Second Dose Exception”

References

1. Vaccine Clinical Advisory Group. Recommendations on Exceptions to Extended Dose Intervals for COVID-19 vaccines. 2021 Mar 26 [cited 2021 Apr 20]. Available from: https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/vaccine/COVID_19_medical_exceptions_vaccine_dose_intervals.pdf.

For more information, please contact:

Name/Title: Marlene Jantzi, Program Manager Infectious Disease
Phone: 519-822-2715 / 1-800-265-7293 ext. 5689
Email: marlene.jantzi@wdgpublichealth.ca
Website: www.wdgpublichealth.ca