

COVID-19 Vaccine Bulletin #14

Phase 2 & Janssen Vaccine

The purpose of the Vaccine Bulletin is to give you the latest information about COVID-19 vaccines. For this bulletin, the focus will be on Phase 2 of the vaccine rollout and the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine.

Quick Updates

- Check out [Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph's vaccination dashboard](#). The [total number of single doses](#) that have been administered in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph is **24,911**.
- Vaccine pre-registration eligibility has been expanded to include individuals who are part of Phase 2. See www.wdgppublichealth.ca/register for more information. There is a **Vaccine Registration and Booking Helpline: 1-844-780-0202** for anyone who has issues pre-registering or booking online.
- Public health has been directed by the Ministry of Health to extend the time interval of the second dose of COVID-19 vaccines **up to 16 weeks** in order to increase the number of individuals benefitting from a first dose of vaccine. The extended interval applies to all of the two-dose vaccines that have been currently approved by Health Canada (Pfizer, Moderna, and AstraZeneca).
- The WDGPH-led mass vaccination clinic in Guelph will be changing locations from Chancellor's Way (Public Health office) to the West End Community Centre starting March 16 to improve accessibility.

Phase 2 Priority Populations

- Phase 2 priority populations are now eligible to pre-register. Please encourage all eligible patients, clients, family members, colleagues, and friends to pre-register at www.wdgppublichealth.ca/register. **A full list of eligible groups is provided on this link.**
- Note that Phase 1 populations will remain first priority for booking appointments.
- Phase 2 populations will be prioritized based on age and risk categories (see below). It **may take up to 4-6 weeks** for some individuals even in the higher risk categories to receive their booking information as appointments depend on vaccine supply.
- For anyone have trouble with the pre-registration portal please direct them to our troubleshooting webpage: [how to book your vaccination appointment online](#).
- Individuals waiting for their vaccination appointment can review WDGPH's webpage: [preparing for your COVID-19 vaccination](#).

- Future changes to the eligibility list are possible. Please check the registration website for the most up-to-date information.

Updated – Ministry of Health Vaccine Information & Planning Resources

- The Ministry of Health's (MOH) [COVID-19 Vaccination Recommendations for Special populations](#) has been updated to eliminate the requirement for those who are pregnant or immunocompromised to provide a verbal attestation of having received counselling by a health care provider. It is still recommended that they speak to a health care provider and provide verbal confirmation as part of the informed consent for vaccination.
- Other updates to the MOH vaccine documents can be reviewed here: www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/covid19_vaccine.aspx

Safety of AstraZeneca

- Several European countries have paused their use of the AstraZeneca vaccine after several patients had adverse thromboembolic events. This is being actively followed and discussed at all levels of government and is being investigated by the EU regulator (the European Medicines Agency/EMA). Based on a preliminary review, [the EMA's pharmacovigilance committee \(PRAC\) does not believe that the vaccine caused these events](#).
- The AstraZeneca vaccine product that is currently being delivered to Canada [comes from the Serum Institute of India under the brand name COVISHIELD](#). This is a different supply from the vaccine that is being used in Europe, and the lots that are being investigated are not being used in Ontario.
- Given how many people have received the vaccine, it is expected that some people will have adverse events after being immunized. In their investigation, the regulators need to consider whether these events are happening more frequently than they would otherwise have happened (i.e., the background rate) and whether there is a plausible mechanism for how the vaccine would cause the adverse event.
- Groups like [Health Canada](#) and [Thrombosis Canada](#) continue to emphasize that the vaccine is safe and that the benefits of immunization outweigh any risks. B.C.'s Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, had a very good way of explaining the situation at a [press conference she gave yesterday](#).

AstraZeneca Vaccine Pilot for Primary Care

- WDGPH has been selected as one of six public health units in the province to pilot the AstraZeneca vaccine to patients through primary care practices.
- Primary care offices will be using the AstraZeneca vaccine which is fridge-friendly and requires similar conditions to that of the flu shot vaccine. Please review [Vaccine Bulletin #13](#) for more information on the AstraZeneca vaccine.
- Eligible patients must be 60-64 years of age, rostered patients, and must not have significant comorbidities.
- For additional information, please review the [Physician Update](#) on the [WDGPH website](#).

Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) Vaccine

- The Janssen vaccine was [approved by Health Canada](#) on March 5, 2021.

Summary Table of the Janssen Vaccine

Platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Viral vector-based vaccine (see Vaccine Bulletin #6)
Age approved for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 years of age and older
Dosage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single dose (0.5 ml) given intramuscularly
Storage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stored at 2-8°C
Side effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mild to moderate • Most common: pain at injection site, headache, fatigue, muscle aches and nausea • Side effects were milder and less frequent in older adults (when compared to younger adults).
Contraindications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe allergy to any ingredients in the vaccine • Had allergic reaction to any adenovirus-based vaccine
Vaccine Efficacy (based on clinical trials)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on clinical trials, vaccine efficacy is 66.9% for preventing symptomatic COVID-19 at 14 days after vaccination and 66.1% at 28 days after vaccination. • Vaccine efficacy is 76.7% for preventing severe COVID-19 at 14 days after vaccination and 85.4% at 28 days after vaccination. • There were no COVID-19 related deaths in the Janssen vaccine recipients.

Vaccine Hesitancy

Source: [The COVID-19 Vaccine Communication Handbook](#) (available in multiple languages)

How should health care providers talk to people about the vaccine?

- Health care providers are trusted advisors and influencers of vaccination decisions.
- A strong recommendation to get vaccinated, that assumes the person is willing to be vaccinated, has shown to increase uptake. For example: “*I can see that you need your COVID vaccine today.*” is more effective at increasing uptake than more hesitant language: “*What do you think about getting the COVID vaccine today?*”
- If someone expressing hesitance or ambivalence towards vaccination, health care providers should acknowledge and empathize with the person’s concern in a non-judgemental way using an active listening approach.
- Active listening means that you are giving your full attention to the speaker, showing verbal and non-verbal signs of listening, remembering what is being said, and responding appropriately.
- The objective of any vaccination conversation should be as much about building trust and rapport as getting agreement to being vaccinated.
- See pages 9-10 in [The COVID-19 Vaccine Communication Handbook](#) for an example of the “traditional approach” based on education and directing versus the “active listening approach”.

Reference

Lewandowsky, S., Cook, J., Schmid, P., Holford, D. L., Finn, A., Leask, J., Thomson, A., Lombardi, D., Al-Rawi, A. K., Amazeen, M. A., Anderson, E. C., Armaos, K. D., Betsch, C., Bruns, H. H. B., Ecker, U. K. H., Gavaruzzi, T., Hahn, U., Herzog, S., Juanchich, M., Kendeou, P., Newman, E. J., Pennycook, G., Rapp, D. N., Sah, S., Sinatra, G. M., Tapper, K., Vraga, E. K (2021). The COVID-19 Vaccine Communication Handbook. A practical guide for improving vaccine communication and fighting misinformation.

Available at: <https://sks.to/c19vax>

Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFIs) in Ontario

Public Health Ontario Summary Report – [AEFIs for COVID-19 in Ontario: December 13, 2020 to March 6, 2021](#)

COVID-19 Vaccine Multi-Language Information

- The Government of Ontario has a website with vaccine resources available in multiple languages: www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-communication-resources.
- [Immigrant Services of Guelph-Wellington](#) is providing a series of information sessions on COVID-19 vaccinations in multiple languages. See their [flyer for details](#) (links available in the flyer to sign up for workshops).

Status of Doses Administered in Ontario

[Ontario's COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan](#)

Total doses administered = **1,062,910**

Daily doses administered = **43,503**

People fully vaccinated = **282,748**

Vaccine Webinars

Upcoming

- March 16 – [Good Practice in Interactive Vaccination Communication](#) (International Federation on Aging)

Recorded

- [Vaccine Hesitancy and First Nations, Inuit, and Métis populations: Potential Implications During COVID-19](#) (NCCID and NCCIH)
- [COVID-19 Vaccines: Allergies and LDV Syringe Discussion](#) (PHAC and NCCID)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Foundational Webinar](#) (PHAC and NCCID)

Vaccine Resources for Health Care Providers

[Toolkit for Health Care Providers](#) (PHAC)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Questions and Answers for Healthcare Providers](#) (CANVAX)

[Learning Module - Our Best Shot at Beating COVID-19: Overcoming Vaccine Hesitancy in 2021](#) (Canadian Paediatric Society)

Reliable Sources of Information on Vaccines

[Public Health Agency of Canada](#)

[Government of Ontario](#)

[Public Health Ontario](#)

[Centre for Effective Practice \(CEP\)](#)

[World Health Organization](#)

[COVID-19 Studies from the World Health Organization Database](#)

[Centres for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#)