Apr 6, 2021

COVID-19 Vaccine Bulletin #17

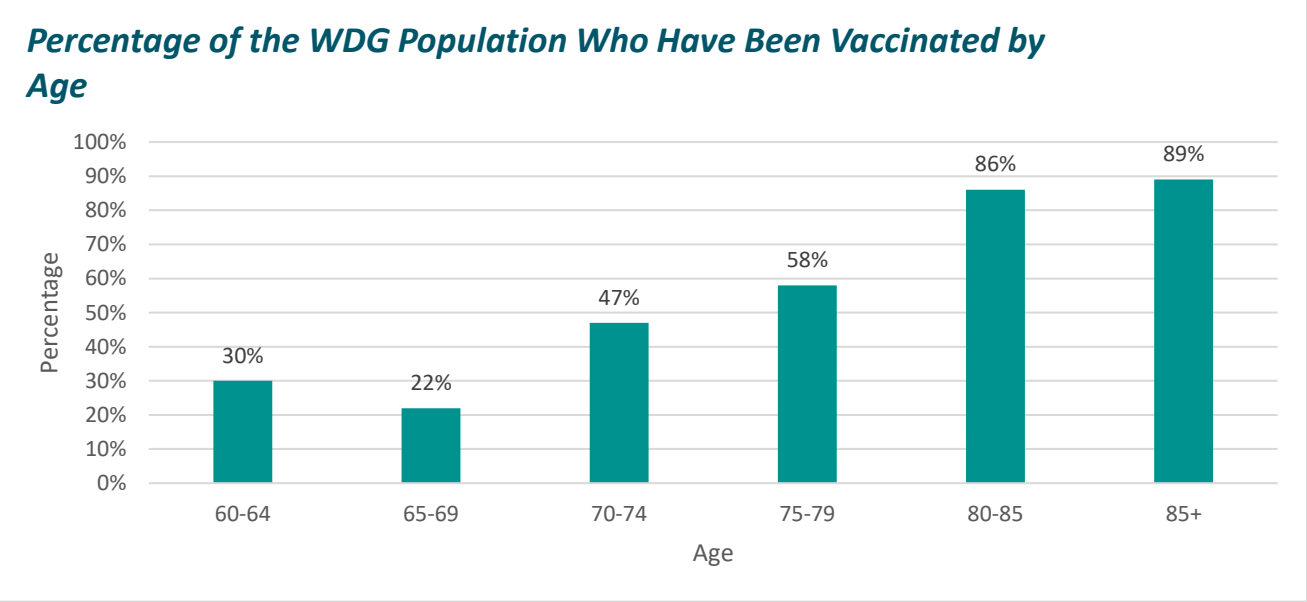
Interchangeability of Vaccines & Vaccine Hesitancy

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 the potential interchangeability of vaccines and vaccine hesitancy.

Quick Updates

- Check out Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph's vaccination dashboard. The **total number of doses** administered in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph is **55,862.**
- **87% of people who are 80 years of age and older and 39% of people who are 65-79 years old in Wellington, Dufferin and Guelph** have received at least one dose of vaccine.
- Go to www.wdgpublichealth.ca/register for more information about vaccine pre-registration and eligible groups. There is a **Vaccine Registration and Booking Helpline: 1-844-780-0202** for anyone who has issues pre-registering or booking online.
- There are five mass clinic sites operating in WDG and some primary care offices in WDG are offering AstraZeneca vaccine to clients 60 years of age and older.
- Ten pharmacies in WDG are offering AstraZeneca vaccine to individuals aged 55 and over.

Vaccine Uptake in WDG by Age



Future Interchangeability of Different COVID-19 Vaccines

- Vaccine researchers have been using combinations of different vaccines to combat pathogens for some years now (e.g., Ebola, HIV) – it is called heterologous prime-boost. It has been shown to increase both initial efficacy and duration of protection from vaccines.
- Researchers theorize that combining two COVID-19 vaccines could strengthen immune response by merging the best features of each type of vaccine. For example, mRNA vaccines are able to generate a strong antibody response to COVID-19 but are not as good as the AstraZeneca vaccine at stimulating a type of T cell called CD8+T cells.
- Being able to "mix-and-match" vaccines may have a two-fold benefit by reducing the impact of vaccine supply disruptions and increasing the effectiveness of vaccines.
- The University of Oxford is undertaking a clinical trial to assess the efficacy and safety of mixing doses of the AstraZeneca and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines. They have recruited 820 adults aged 50 years old and older who will be in one of three groups: 1) given an initial dose of Pfizer followed by a booster dose from AstraZeneca, 2) given an initial dose of AstraZeneca followed by a dose of Pfizer or 3) given two doses of the same vaccine. They will also be comparing two dosing intervals: four weeks versus 12 weeks apart.

References

Ledford, H. (2021). *Could mixing COVID vaccine boost immune response?* Nature: February 2021.

University of Oxford (March 2021). *A single-blind, randomized, phase II UK multi-centre study to determine reactogenicity and immunogenicity of heterologous prime/boost COVID-19 vaccine schedules*. Com-COV Study Protocol.

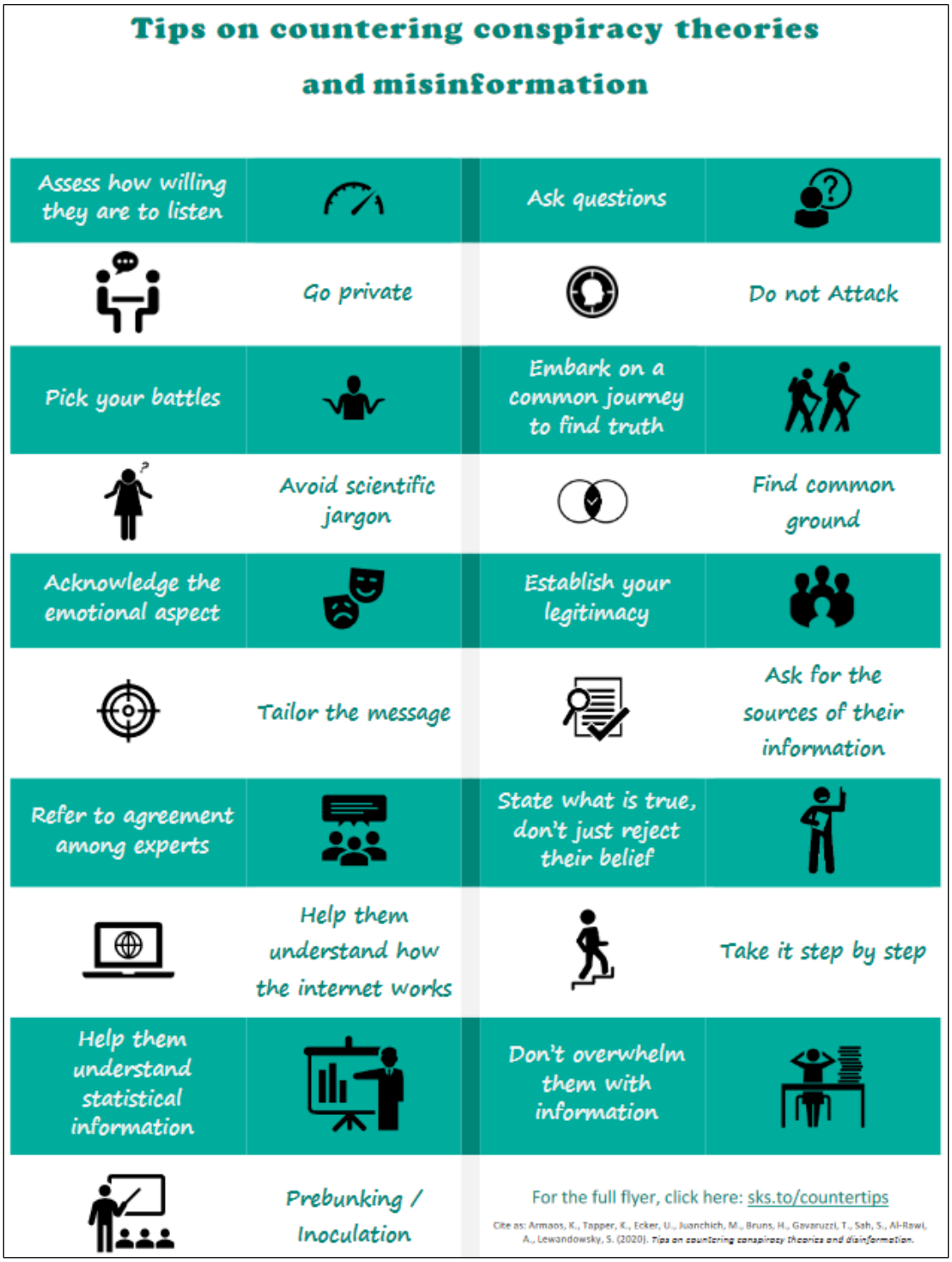
Updates from Pfizer-BioNTech

- Pfizer-BioNTech announced that, in a Phase 3 trial with 2,260 adolescents 12 to 15 years for age, the Pfizer vaccine demonstrated 100% efficacy. Side effects were consistent with those observed in participants aged 16 to 25 years of age.
- Pfizer is also reporting that their vaccine has shown a 91% efficacy rate against symptomatic COVID-19 measured up to 6 months after second dose and a 95-100% efficacy rate at preventing severe disease. The vaccine was also reported to be 100% effective in preventing COVID-19 cases in South Africa (800 participants) where the B.1.351 variant of concern is prevalent.

Vaccine Hesitancy

Source: The COVID-19 Vaccine Communication Handbook

- For full flyer details: sks.to/countertips



Update – Ontario Expanding Pharmacy & Primary Care Vaccination Clinics

- Ontario has expanded vaccine clinics to over 350 additional pharmacies and more primary care settings. These locations will be offering the AstraZeneca vaccine to individuals aged 55 and over.
- Find the list of pharmacies currently offering the AstraZeneca vaccine.
- The Ministry of Health has selected ten pharmacies in Wellington, Dufferin and Guelph that will offer AstraZeneca vaccine clinics (starting April 6):

Shoppers Drug Mart #1082	710 Tower St. S., Fergus
Shoppers Drug Mart #934	25 Broadway Ave., Orangeville
Costco Pharmacy	19 Elmira Rd. S., Guelph
Rexall	140-666 Woolwich St., Guelph
Drugstore Pharmacy #531	160 Kortright Rd. W., Guelph
Drugstore Pharmacy #559	1045 Paisley Rd., Guelph
Rexall	123 Main St., Erin
Drugstore Pharmacy #4167	101 Second Line, Shelburne
Jeffers Pharmacy Limited	1 Elizabeth St., Orangeville
Trailside Pharmasave	6420 Beatty Line N. Unit 101, Fergus

Vaccine-Induced Prothrombotic Immune Thrombocytopenia (VIPIT)

Science Table's VIPIT Following AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccination: Interim Guidance of Healthcare Professionals in Emergency Department and Inpatient Settings

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)