

COVID-19 Vaccine Bulletin #22

Pfizer for Adolescents

The focus of this bulletin will be on the efficacy and safety profile of Pfizer for age 12-15 years and a review of the COVID-19 cases after vaccination in Ontario.

Quick Updates

- Check out [Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph's vaccination dashboard](#). The **total number of doses** administered in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (WDG) is **116,971**.
- There is [new interim guidance](#) for Case, Contact and Outbreak management for fully immunized individuals.
- **Starting this week, WDG residents/workers are eligible to receive a vaccine appointment if they are in at least one of the following categories:**
 - 40 years of age or older
 - Have a “high-risk” or “at-risk” health condition (see [Phase 2 drop down list](#))
 - Are an essential worker from Group 1 or 2 (see [Phase 2 drop down list](#))
- Health Canada has approved Pfizer vaccine for ages 12 and up. Individuals who are **12-15 years old can now pre-register for a vaccine appointment**.
- Go to www.wdgppublichealth.ca/register for more information about vaccine pre-registration. There is a **Vaccine Registration and Booking Helpline: 1-844-780-0202 (Mon-Fri, 12-8 pm)** for anyone who has issues pre-registering or booking online.
- People can now check their pre-registration status: www.wdgppublichealth.ca/check-registration.
- [High-risk health care workers are now eligible](#) to receive a second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at a shortened interval. WDGPH will communicate the plan to accommodate these second doses by May 14.
- Reminder for health care providers to fax completed [Adverse Events Following Immunization \(AEFIs\) forms](#) to the reportable disease line: **1-855-934-5463**.

Vaccine Status for Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph

Maximum number of doses administered in one week = 15,061	43% of eligible population (16+) received one dose
Maximum number of doses administered in one day = 3,422	Total number of doses given in primary care office or pharmacy = 22,286

Age Group	Percentage with First Dose
80+	96%
65-79	89%
60-64	78%
55-59	56%
50-54	43%

Pfizer Vaccine for 12-15 Year Olds

Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine has been [authorized by Health Canada](#) for adolescents 12 to 15 years of age.

Summary of Clinical Trial Data

Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2260 adolescents 12 to 15 years of age were treated with two doses of the vaccine (n=1131) or placebo (n=1129), 21 days apart.
Efficacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In participants with or without evidence of prior infection with SARS-CoV-2, compared to placebo, efficacy was 100%.
Safety Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 98% of the participants had at least 1 month of follow-up, and 58% had at least 2 months of follow-up after their second dose. In general, adverse reactions and safety results were comparable to those in young adults 16 to 25 years old.
Solicited Adverse Reactions (symptoms that participants are specifically asked to record)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solicited adverse reaction reported within 7 days after any dose included pain at the injection site (98%), fatigue (78%), chills (49%), muscle pain (42%), fever (24%), joint pain (20%), injection site swelling (9.2%), and injection site redness (9%). Most of the adverse reactions were mild or moderate in severity. The severe solicited adverse reactions were reported in $\leq 1.5\%$ for local adverse reactions (e.g., injection site pain, swelling, redness) and in $\leq 4\%$ for systemic adverse reactions (e.g., fatigue, fever, muscle pain).
Unsolicited Adverse Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unsolicited events were reported by 6.4% of vaccine recipients and by 6.3% of placebo recipients. No mortality was reported in the study. The observed adverse events did not suggest any serious safety concerns for adolescents.
Adverse Events of Special Interest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lymphadenopathy (enlargement of the lymph nodes) was reported in 0.8% of participants in the vaccine group (9 cases) and in 0.2% in the placebo group (2 cases). No cases of Bell's palsy, myocarditis, thrombocytopenia or deep vein thrombosis were reported. No cases of anaphylaxis reactions were reported.

Reference

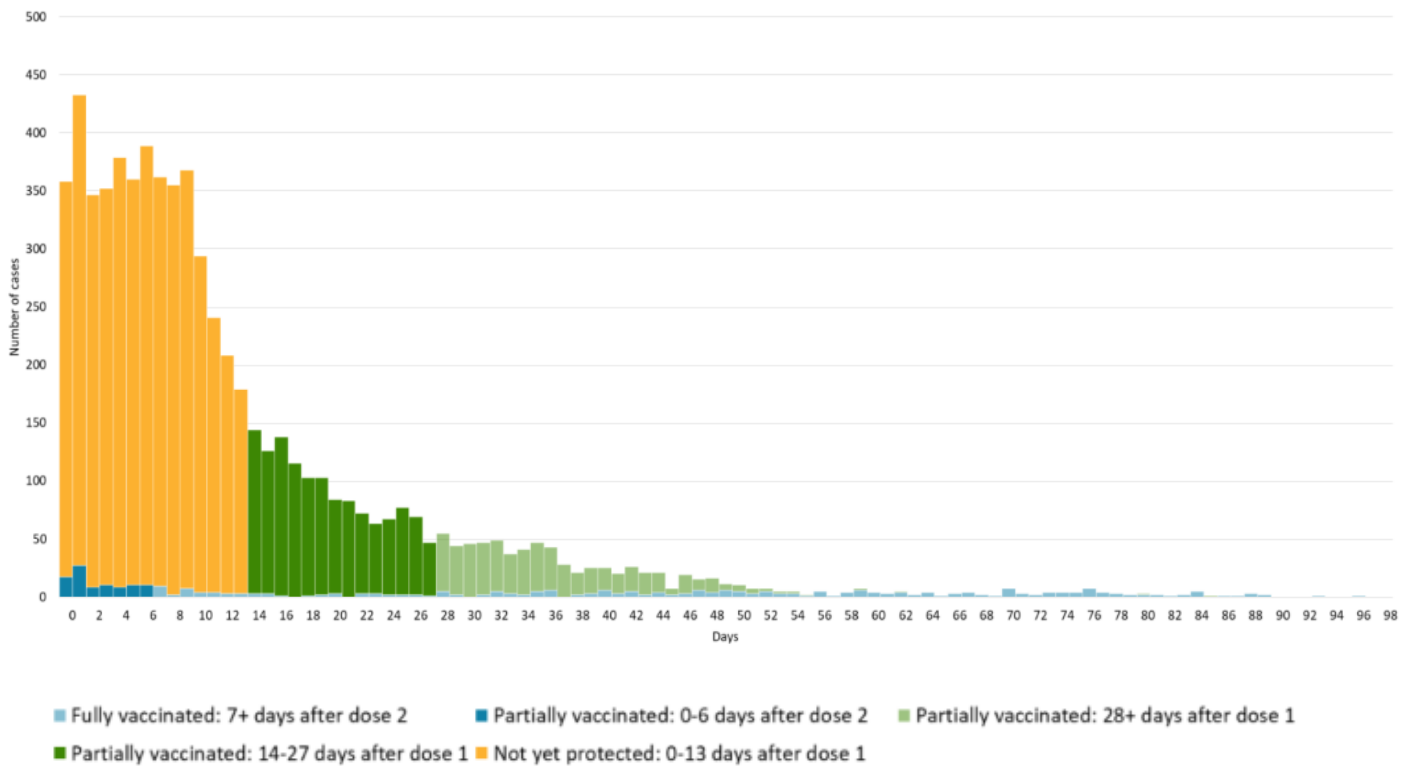
Health Canada. [Regulatory decision summary – Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine.](#)

Cases of COVID-19 Following Vaccination in Ontario

Highlights

- Of the almost 3.5 million people vaccinated from December 14, 2020 to April 17, 2021, only 0.06% (2,223 individuals) had a symptomatic COVID-19 infection when they were partially vaccinated (≥ 14 days after first dose or < 7 days after second dose) or fully vaccinated (≥ 7 days after second dose).
- The majority of post-vaccination cases identified were not yet protected from vaccination—symptom onset date was < 14 days following dose 1 administration.
- The number of post-vaccination cases declines dramatically as time from vaccination increases.

Figure: Confirmed Symptomatic Post-Vaccination Cases of COVID-19 by Number of Days Between Dose Administration and Symptom Onset



Reference

Ontario Agency of Health Protection and Promotion (Public Health Ontario). [Confirmed cases of COVID-19 following vaccination in Ontario: December 14, 2020 to April 17, 2021](#). Toronto, ON: Queen's Printer for Ontario; 2021.

Update – Interchangeability of Vaccines

- For background information on interchangeability of vaccines, review [Vaccine Bulletin #17](#).
- The University of Oxford is undertaking two clinical trials to assess the efficacy and safety of mixing doses of different vaccines:
 - The Com-COV study combines doses of AstraZeneca and Pfizer.
 - The expanded Com-COV2 study combines doses of AstraZeneca, Moderna, Pfizer and Novovax.
- Results from Com-COV are expected in May and results from the expanded Com-COV2 study are expected in June or July (although the studies will continue for a year).

References

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.

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 – stage 2](#). Com-COV2 Study Protocol.

Updates from Ontario

- The [Ontario Government](#) is launching mobile vaccine units for small to medium-sized businesses in hot spot communities (Toronto, York and Peel). Starting May 7, an initial rollout of up to five mobile units is planned with a possible expansion of up to 15 units.
- The province is also expanding the use of Moderna vaccine to pharmacies. Up to 60 pharmacies will participate with locations in Durham, Hamilton, Ottawa, Windsor-Essex and York for individuals 18 and over. Further expansion will continue through May. Participating pharmacies will be identified [here](#).
- Primary care offices will have the opportunity to order Moderna in a gradual roll-out process across WDG. Information on how to order Moderna on an ongoing basis will be available soon. Some offices will have Moderna starting this week.
- [High-risk health care workers are now eligible](#) to receive a second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at a shortened interval. WDGPH will communicate the plan to accommodate these second doses by May 14.
- There is [new interim guidance](#) for Case, Contact and Outbreak management for fully immunized individuals.

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 \(CDC\)](#)