

COVID-19 Vaccine Bulletin #24

Emerging Research

The focus of this bulletin will be on second doses of AstraZeneca and new vaccine research.

Quick Updates

- Check out [Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph's vaccination dashboard](#). The **total number of doses** administered in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (WDG) is **151,436**.
- WDG residents or workers who are **12 years of age and older are eligible for a vaccine appointment**. Go to www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.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.
- For information on second doses, review the [Appointment Booking Status](#) webpage
- Health care providers can [fax referrals](#) for exceptions to delayed second dose for those with certain health conditions to **1-855-934-5463**.
- To find out which pharmacies are offering vaccine, visit covid-19.ontario.ca/vaccine-locations.
- **58% of Ontario residents 12+** received one dose of vaccine
- [Canada has surpassed the United States](#) for percentage of the total population with first doses of vaccine.
- For homebound clients: please note that both Pfizer and Moderna vaccine can now be transported in a single syringe for these patients. Use the usual referral process for your area (Dufferin vs. Guelph Wellington).

Vaccine Status for Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph

56% of residents 16+ received one dose	4% of residents 16+ received two doses
Maximum number of doses administered in one day = 4,422	Total number of doses given in primary care office or pharmacy = 23,973

Age Group	Percentage with First Dose
80+	97%
65-79	89%
60-64	83%
55-59	70%
50-54	63%
45-49	54%

Second doses of AstraZeneca

- A [WDGPH Physician and Pharmacist Update](#) was sent to all healthcare providers on May 21, 2021 in regard to second doses of AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD
- To date, physicians and pharmacists in WDG have already delivered first doses of this vaccine to over 20,000 clients, many of whom already have appointments booked for their second dose.
- In order to use a supply of short-dated vaccine before expiry, some clients in Ontario may choose to have a second dose of AstraZeneca/COVIDSHIELD at a ~12 week interval (no less than 10 weeks), or wait to determine which vaccine they may receive at a later date when more data is available on a mixed vaccine series.
- Not all primary care offices or pharmacies will have AstraZeneca/COVIDSHIELD available until more vaccine is available to order.
- Consent for the second dose will be informed through understanding the benefits and risks of the choices, supported by discussion with a health care provider.
- A [Ministry of Health screening form will be available here](#) with points to review with clients to ensure informed consent prior to a decision on completing a second dose series of AstraZeneca/COVIDSHIELD.
- More information for primary care partners on how to order AstraZeneca/COVIDSHIELD vaccine is pending confirmation of deliveries and amounts. Pharmacies will continue to receive this information and vaccine through Ministry channels.

New and Emerging Vaccine Research

Delaying Second Doses

- A UK study of 175 people over 80 years of age found that those who received the second dose of Pfizer vaccine at an extended interval of 12 weeks had a higher peak antibody response than those that received their second dose at the three-week standard interval.

Parry, H.M. et al. (May 17, 2021). [Extended interval BNT162b2 vaccination enhances peak antibody generation in older people](#). Pre-print article from medRxiv.

Interchanging Vaccines (Heterologous Prime Boost)

Safety Profile of Com-COV Study (UK)

- Researchers have presented the initial reactogenicity (side effects) and safety data from the [Com-COV study](#) that combines doses of AstraZeneca (AZ) vaccine with Pfizer vaccine.
- Both types heterologous vaccine schedules (AZ followed by Pfizer and Pfizer followed by AZ) induced more reports of systemic reactions (e.g., feverishness, fatigue, headache, joint pain) following the second dose than the homologous vaccine schedules (AZ only and Pfizer only).
- Most local and systemic reactions were categorized as mild or moderate in severity.

Shaw, R. H., Stuart A., Greenland, M., Liu, X., Nguyen Van-Tam, J. S., & Snape, M. D. (May 12, 2021). [Heterologous prime-boost COVID-19 vaccination: Initial reactogenicity data](#). Correspondence in the Lancet.

Preliminary Results from CombivacS Study (Spain)

- Starting in April, the [CombivacS](#) trial enrolled 663 people who already received a first dose of AstraZeneca. Two-thirds of participants were randomly selected to receive Pfizer at least 8 weeks after their first dose.
- According to a press release, participants who received the second Pfizer dose began to produce higher antibody levels. The antibodies produced were able to recognize and inactivate SARS-CoV-2 in laboratory tests. Control participants who did not receive a booster vaccination experienced no change in antibody levels. Furthermore, the level of antibodies in the bloodstream was higher in people who got the Pfizer booster shot than what has been shown in those who received a second AstraZeneca shot.
- Preliminary findings from this study were reported through a press release, published data is still pending.
- Reuters (May 18, 2021). [Spanish study finds AstraZeneca vaccine followed by Pfizer dose is safe and effective](#).

NEW - Delayed Second Doses and Interchangeability

- The new [MOSAIC study](#), led by the Clinical Trials Network of the Canadian Immunization Network, aims to answer three questions:
 - How safe and effective is vaccination with the standard interval (28 days) compared to the delayed interval between doses (112 days).

- How safe and effective is a two-dose vaccine when different vaccines are used for the first and second dose (using all combinations of Pfizer, Moderna and AstraZeneca).
- How long does protection from vaccines last in the above conditions.
- Researchers are currently recruiting 1300 Canadian participants to participate in this study.

Timing of Other Vaccines and Allergy Shots

When is it recommended to administer other vaccines before or after the COVID-19 vaccine?

- It is currently recommended to **wait 28 days after each dose of a COVID-19 vaccine before the administration of another vaccine (except in the case where another vaccine is required for post-exposure prophylaxis).**
- It is currently recommended to **wait at least 14 days after the administration of another vaccine before administering a COVID-19 vaccine.**
- Timing of other vaccines may change as more information becomes available.

What is the recommended timing for allergy shots when receiving the COVID-19 vaccine?

- The ideal timing is: allergy shot, wait one week, then vaccinate, wait 3 weeks for next allergy shot. Aim for at least one week between allergy shots and vaccine.

Updates from Ontario

- Ontario is proceeding with second dose administration of the AstraZeneca vaccine beginning with those who received their first dose of the vaccine between March 10 and March 19, 2021. Eligible individuals may contact the pharmacy or primary care provider where they received their first dose to book an appointment beginning the week of May 24.
- The province will also be reviewing the data and evidence on the safety and efficacy of combining a first dose of AstraZeneca with a second dose of an mRNA vaccine. Recommendations are expected to be available in June 2021.

Public Health Ontario Webinars

COVID-19 Vaccine Program Surveillance

- [Part One: Vaccine Safety Surveillance](#) (click link to register) - Monday, May 31, 2021, 12:00 pm.
- [Part Two: Monitoring Vaccine Impact and Surveillance for Special Populations](#) (click link to register) – Thursday, June 3, 2021, 12:00 pm

Reliable Sources of Information on Vaccines

[Public Health Agency of Canada](#)

[Government of Ontario](#)

[Ministry of Health](#)

[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 \(CDC\)](#)