

## COVID-19 Vaccine Bulletin #26

### Vaccine Interchangeability & New Research

#### Quick Updates

- Check out [Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph's vaccination dashboard](#). The **total number of doses** administered in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (WDG) is **193,839**.
- WDG residents or workers who are **12 years of age and older are eligible for a vaccine appointment**. Go to [www.wdgppublichealth.ca/register](http://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.
- Local pharmacies are also providing Pfizer (12 years of age and older) and Moderna (18 years of age and older) vaccine. To find out which pharmacies are offering Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, visit [covid-19.ontario.ca/vaccine-locations](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/vaccine-locations).
- Links to information about vaccines and youth can be found on the [vaccine FAQ page](#).
- WDGPH is currently contacting WDG residents 70 years of age and older by phone or email to book second dose appointments. More information on booking second doses will be coming soon, check back on the [Appointment Booking Status](#) webpage to stay up-to-date.
- [Individuals who have received their first dose of the AstraZeneca \(AZ\) vaccine](#) can choose to either receive a second dose of the AZ vaccine or mRNA (Pfizer or Moderna) vaccine.
  - Second doses of AZ will be available at the pharmacy or primary care office where individuals received their first dose.
  - Second doses of Moderna or Pfizer are available at [participating pharmacies](#), and some primary care offices. A third option to book at a public health mass vaccination clinic will be available soon—check the [Appointment Booking Status](#) webpage for updates.

#### Vaccine Status for Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph

<b>66%</b> of residents <b>12+</b> received one dose	<b>6%</b> of residents <b>12+</b> received two doses
Maximum number of doses administered in one day = <b>5,538</b>	Total number of doses given in primary care office or pharmacy = <b>36,754</b>

Age Group	First Dose	Age Group	First Dose
65-79	91%	35-39	60%
60-64	86%	30-34	55%
55-59	77%	25-29	49%
50-54	75%	20-24	45%
45-49	70%	15-19	38%
40-44	68%	12-14	17%

## Vaccine Interchangeability

- Following the emerging evidence on the risk of vaccine-induced immune thrombotic thrombocytopenia (VITT) that is associated with the use of viral vector vaccines, the [National Advisory Committee on Immunizations \(NACI\) has provided two recommendations](#) on the use of a mixed two-dose primary series schedule for COVID-19 immunization:
  - **When the first dose is an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna), the same mRNA COVID-19 vaccine product should be offered for the second dose.** However, when the same mRNA COVID-19 vaccine produce is not readily available, or is unknown, another mRNA COVID-19 vaccine product recommended for use in that age group can be considered interchangeable and should be offered to complete the vaccine series. The previous dose should be counted, and the series need not be restarted.
  - **When the first dose is AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine that either AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD OR an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) may be offered for the subsequent dose in a vaccine series.** The previous dose should be counted, and the series need not be restarted.

## Second Dose Strategy

Vaccine Type First Dose	Vaccine Type Second Dose	Second Dose Interval	Delivery Channel
AstraZeneca	AstraZeneca <b>OR</b> Moderna or Pfizer	<b>≥ 12 weeks</b> *eligible populations (e.g., certain health conditions) should consult with HCP to determine if an interval less than 12 weeks is appropriate	<b>AstraZeneca</b> • Primary Care • Pharmacy <b>Moderna</b> • PH/Partner-led Mass Vaccination Clinics
Moderna or Pfizer	Moderna or Pfizer *preference remains to match second dose with first dose	<b>Up to 16 weeks</b> *shortened intervals will be available for select populations according to the <a href="#">Provincial schedule</a> and vaccine supply.	• Primary Care • Pharmacy <b>Pfizer</b> • PH/Partner-led Mass Vaccination Clinics • Pharmacy

- Ministry of Health's [COVID-19 vaccine information for individuals that received a first dose of the AZ vaccine](#) has been updated (June 4, 2021).

## Identifying Misinformation

- Misinformation is incorrect or misleading information inadvertently sent in order to influence public opinion or obscure the truth.
- The public often seek information and follow advice from health care professionals therefore it is particularly important for health care professionals to critically review information before communicating to patients or clients.
- Health care professionals also have a role to play in helping their patients or clients identify misinformation and direct them to reputable sources of information.
- Some simple, yet helpful tips for avoiding misinformation are:
  - Expect any source of information to prove their work and show how they came to their conclusion.
  - Look for the original sources of information and whether that information comes from reputable sources (e.g., Government, Public Health).
  - Compare information from a number of different sources.
  - Misinformation is most effective on emotionally charged and divisive topics—pay extra attention when reading or hearing information about these types of topics.
- Here are a few websites that provide information on how to critically evaluate vaccine resources:
  - [Immunization Information on the Internet: Can You Trust What You Read?](#) (Immunize Canada)
  - [A Parent's Guide to Health Information on the Internet](#) (Canadian Paediatric Society)
  - [Finding Credible Vaccine Information](#) (CDC)

## New and Emerging Vaccine Research

### **Moderna – TeenCOVE Study**

- In a press release (May 25, 2021), Moderna reported findings from their Phase 2/3 study of its COVID-19 vaccine in adolescents.
- In a study of 3,732 participants ages 12 to 18 years, the vaccine had 100% efficacy in preventing symptomatic COVID (as defined in the adult study) starting 14 days after their second dose and 93% efficacy at preventing milder COVID-19 (as defined by CDC) starting 14 days after their first dose.

- No significant safety concerns have been identified to date. The safety and tolerability profile were consistent with the adult studies. The majority of adverse events were mild to moderate in severity

Moderna (May 25, 2021). [Moderna announces TeenCOVE study of its COVID-19 vaccine in adolescents meets primary endpoint and plans to submit data to regulators in early June.](#)

Press Release.

### **COVID-19 Vaccines and Pregnancy**

- According to a recent review by NACI in [Recommendations on the Use of COVID-19 Vaccines](#), there is no evidence of any concerns regarding fertility, fetal development or postnatal development following vaccination with any of the approved COVID-19 vaccines (see page 33-34).
- Analysis of data collected through international COVID-19 immunization registries to date have not revealed any maternal or neonatal safety signals, and preliminary analyses of over 35,000 pregnant women in the U.S. who received an mRNA vaccine did not reveal any obvious safety signals.
- Emerging evidence suggests that people who receive the vaccine during pregnancy have a comparable antibody response to those who are not pregnant.

National Advisory Committee on Immunizations (updated May 28, 2021). [Recommendations on the Use of Vaccines.](#)

Shimabukuro, T. T. et al. (April 2021). [Preliminary findings of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine safety in pregnant persons.](#) New England Journal of Medicine DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa2104983.

Beharier, O. et al. (April 2021). [Efficient maternal to neonatal transfer of SARS-CoV-2 and BNT162b2 antibodies.](#) Preprint from medRxiv:

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.03.31.21254674>.

### **Vaccine Injury Support Program**

- Canada has launched a Vaccine Injury Support Program to ensure that people in Canada who have experience a serious and permanent injury as a result of receiving a Health Canada authorized vaccine have fair and timely access to financial support.
- For more information: [www.vaccineinjurysupport.ca](http://www.vaccineinjurysupport.ca)

### **Ministry of Health Guidance**

- Ministry of Health has posted [Guidance for Individuals Vaccinated Outside of ON/Canada](#)

## 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 \(CDC\)](#)