

COVID-19 Vaccine Bulletin #27

Delta Variant & Vaccine Safety

Quick Updates

- Check out [Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph's vaccination dashboard](#). The **total number of doses** administered in Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (WDG) is **219,589**.
- **FIRST DOSE:**
 - WDG residents or workers who are **12 years of age and older can register for a vaccine appointment at:** www.wdgpUBLICHEALTH.ca/register.
- **SECOND DOSE (Pfizer or Moderna):**
 - Starting today, June 14, individuals who received their first dose **on or before May 9** at a WDGPH clinic and do not have a second dose (or appointment for second dose) will receive an email or text message with booking information.
 - Individuals who received a **first dose of AstraZeneca** and would like to book a **second dose of mRNA vaccine at a WDGPH clinic** can use [the pre-registration system](#) to book their second dose.
- There is a **Vaccine Registration and Booking Helpline: 1-844-780-0202 (Mon-Fri, 12-8 pm)** for anyone who has issues registering or booking online.
- Individuals who had a first dose of AstraZeneca and want a **second dose of AstraZeneca** should contact the pharmacy or primary care office where they had their first dose.
- Local **pharmacies** are also providing **first and second dose** Pfizer (12 years of age and older) or 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.
- Individuals can choose between a second dose of AstraZeneca or an mRNA vaccine at an **eight to 12-week interval** provided they give informed consent that includes the understanding that waiting a longer interval of 12 weeks may provide more protection.
- Up-to-date information about first and second doses is available on the [Appointment Booking Status](#) webpage.
- Links to information about vaccines and youth can be found on the [vaccine FAQ page](#).
- **CANCELLATIONS:** Individuals can now [cancel a booked appointment at a WDGPH clinic](#) online. To cancel an appointment at a pharmacy or primary care office, individuals must contact them directly.

Vaccine Status for Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph

72% of residents 12+ received one dose	10% of residents 12+ received two doses
Maximum number of doses administered in one week = 25,062	Total number of doses given in primary care office or pharmacy = 43,998

Age Group	First Dose	Age Group	First Dose
65+	95%	35-39	68%
60-64	87%	30-34	63%
55-59	79%	25-29	57%
50-54	78%	20-24	55%
45-49	73%	15-19	52%
40-44	71%	12-14	30%

Using Mixed mRNA Series

- While it continues to be preferable to provide the same vaccine product to complete an mRNA vaccine series; if there is an operational or logistic necessity, including the availability of vaccine products, a mixed mRNA model is acceptable.
- Using a mixed mRNA series in these conditions is consistent with [recommendations from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization](#) and the practices of many jurisdictions.
- Provision of a second dose of vaccine should not be significantly delayed in order to complete a vaccine series using the same mRNA vaccine, unless clinically indicated.
- For more information on the Ministry of Health's second dose strategy, see [COVID-19 Vaccine Series Second Dose Eligibility Quick Reference](#).

Quick Summary of the Delta Variant

- The Delta Variant (B.1.617.2) which originated in India has now spread to at least 62 countries and is now the dominant strain in the UK (over 90% of new cases).
- In Ontario, among those testing samples that underwent whole genome sequencing, the proportion that were Delta variants increase from 8% (May 9-15) to 14% (May 16-22).
- There are 5 known cases of the Delta variant in WDG but this is likely an underestimation of the actual number of cases.
- Data from the UK indicates that there is a 60% increased risk of household transmission than then Alpha variant (B.1.1.7).

- Early evidence from the UK indicates that there may be an increased risk of hospitalization when compared to the Alpha variant.
- Data suggests, when compared to Alpha variant, there is some reduction in vaccine effectiveness against symptomatic infection that is more pronounced after a single dose (15-20% reduction). Data continues to show that vaccine effectiveness is higher after two doses but there is some reduction with the Delta variant when compared to Alpha.

References

- Public Health Ontario (June 2021). [SARS-CoV-2 whole genome sequencing in Ontario, June 9, 2021](#).
- Public Health England. June 2021. [Risk assessment for SARS-CoV-2 variant: Delta](#)
- Public Health England. June 2021. [Latest updates on SARS-CoV-2 variants detected in the UK](#).
- Public Health England (June 11, 2021). [SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern and variants under investigation in England: Technical briefing 15](#).
- Lopez Bernal, J. et al. (May 2021). [Effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines against the B.1.617.2 variant](#). Preprint article (not yet peer reviewed) from Public Health England.

Myocarditis/Pericarditis

- International reports of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) and pericarditis (inflammation of the lining around the heart) following vaccination with COVID-19 mRNA vaccines have emerged particularly among adolescents and young adults. These reports are rare given the number of vaccine doses administered.
- Myocarditis and pericarditis both involve inflammation of the heart in response to an infection or some other trigger. Symptoms can include shortness of breath, chest pain, or the feeling of a rapid or abnormal heart rhythm.
- The currently available information indicates that
 - It is most common among adolescents and young adults.
 - It is more common among males than females.
 - It is more commonly reported after the second dose.
 - It is more commonly reported after receiving Moderna than Pfizer.
 - Symptom onset is typically within four days after vaccination.
 - Most cases experienced mild illness, responded well to treatment and rest, and symptoms improved quickly.
- The Public Health Agency of Canada and Health Canada are closely monitoring myocarditis/pericarditis in passive and active Canadian surveillance systems.

- All cases of myocarditis or pericarditis following vaccination should be [reported to public health](#).

Additional Resources

Public Health Agency of Canada (June 2021). [Communique to Health Practitioners: Reports of Myocarditis/ Pericarditis after COVID-19 Vaccination](#).

Centre for Disease Control COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force (June 2021). [COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Updates](#).

Brighton Collaboration (May 2021). [Draft Myocarditis Case Definition and Pictorial Algorithm](#).

World Health Organization (May 2021). [COVID-19 Subcommittee of the WHO Global Advisory Committee on Vaccine Safety \(GACVS\) Reviews Cases of Mild Myocarditis Reported with COVID-19 mRNA Vaccines](#).

Vaccine Safety Surveillance in Ontario and Canada

- Public Health Ontario (PHO) blog provides an overview of [COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Surveillance in Ontario](#).
- [PHO Weekly Summary: Adverse Events Following Immunization \(AEFIs\) for COVID-19 in Ontario](#)
- [PHO Reports of Events Managed as Anaphylaxis Following COVID-19 Vaccines in Ontario](#)
- [How Vaccine Safety is Monitored in Canada](#)
- [Vaccine Regulatory Process in Canada](#)
- Canada's [Vaccine Injury Support Program](#)

Updated Ministry of Health Guidance

[COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet](#) (Updated June 8)

[AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 Vaccine Second Dose Q&A for Health Care Providers](#) (Updated June 8)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Individuals who Received a First Dose of AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 Vaccine](#) (Updated June 8)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Storage and Handling](#) (Updated June 8)

- Updated storage requirements for Pfizer at 2 to 8C for up to 31 days.

[Moderna Product Monograph](#) (Updated June 9)

- Once the vial has been punctured, it can be stored at room temperature or refrigerated, but must be discarded after 24 hours. Do not refreeze.

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 \(CDC\)](#)