

COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Individuals who received a first dose of the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine

Version 4.0 – July 16, 2021

This document provides basic information only and is not intended to provide or take the place of medical advice, diagnosis or treatment, or legal advice.

Getting a first dose of AstraZeneca /COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine was the right thing to do. It is protecting you and others from severe illness.

A second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine is needed for the best protection against COVID-19. Being fully vaccinated is especially important because it provides much better protection than only one dose against the delta variant of concern (VOC) that is now in Ontario.

If you had an AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine as your first dose, you have a choice about the type of vaccine you can receive for your second dose:

- 1. Receive the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine for my second dose no less than 8 weeks following my first dose**
- 2. Receive an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) for my second dose no less than 8 weeks following my first dose**

This document will help you to decide what choice is right for you. **Make sure any questions you may have are answered by a health care professional.**

On June 17th, 2021, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) updated their recommendations for individuals that received the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine as their first dose:

- Either an mRNA or the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine may be offered for the second dose

- An mRNA vaccine **is now preferred** for second doses because current evidence suggests this may produce a better immune response and there is good safety data about having an mRNA vaccine for a second dose
- Individuals who receive two doses of the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine are considered protected and do not require additional doses.

More information about NACI's recommendations can be found in this [summary statement](#) on their website.

Here is what we know about a mixed COVID-19 vaccine schedule:

- Current evidence suggests that getting an mRNA vaccine after the first dose of an AstraZeneca/ COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine produces a better immune response, including against variants of concern, than a second dose of AstraZeneca/ COVISHIELD vaccine. Several studies are underway to assess this further. It is possible that a better immune response will mean better protection and/or a longer duration of protection.
- There is a possibility of increased short-term side effects after the second dose when using different vaccine type for the second dose, such as headache, fatigue and muscle aches.

Two doses of AstraZeneca/ COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine provide good protection against symptomatic COVID-19 and severe outcomes, like hospitalizations and death.

- Clinical trials showed that AstraZeneca/ COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine offers the best protection when the two doses are spread out by 12 weeks. When the doses were spread out by ≥ 12 weeks, it provided an estimated 82% protection against symptomatic disease. When the two doses were given closer together (9-12 weeks), protection was estimated at 69%.
- Recent data estimate that the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine provides an estimated 60% protection against symptomatic disease against the delta variant of concern after two doses.

The AstraZeneca/ COVISHIELD vaccine has been linked with a very rare but serious blood clotting condition, called Vaccine-Induced Immune Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia (VITT).^{*} This is a condition that can be very serious and hard to treat. The rate of VITT is estimated to be between 1 per 26,000 and 1 per 100,000 persons vaccinated with a first dose of an AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine ([NACI](#)). The rate of VITT in Canada after a first dose has been estimated to

be approximately 1 per 55,000 doses given*. At this time international data suggests that after the second dose, the risk of VITT is estimated to be 1 for every 600,000 doses given. These estimates may change as more people around the world receive a second dose and we learn more. The Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines do not cause VITT.

*To learn more about VITT, see the Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table document: [Vaccine-Induced Immune Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia \(VITT\) Following Adenovirus Vector COVID-19 Vaccination: Lay Summary - Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table](#)

- ☐ **Option 1: Receive the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine for my second dose**
- ☐ **Option 2: Receive an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine for my second dose**
- ☐ **I have had the opportunity to ask questions regarding the vaccine I am receiving and to have them answered to my satisfaction.**

To be completed if direct entry into COVAX_{ON} is not possible:

Last Name	First Name
Date of Birth	Identification number (e.g., health card, passport, birth certificate, driver's license)
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