

Ministry of Health

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

Version 2.0 – June 4, 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.

As of May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Ontario paused the rollout and administration of first doses of the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine. This decision was made out of an abundance of caution due to an observed increase in the rare blood clotting condition, known as Vaccine-Induced Immune Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia (VITT), associated with the AstraZeneca /COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine.\*

**A second dose of COVID-19 vaccine is needed for the best protection against COVID-19 by all people who received AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine as their first dose of vaccine.**

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization has released [new recommendations](#) that allow for the use of an mRNA vaccine to complete a COVID-19 vaccine series that was started with the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine. This is some times referred to a 'mix and match'.

Individuals who received the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine have two options to discuss with their health care provider when considering their second vaccine dose:

1. **Receive AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine for my second dose 12 weeks following my first dose**
2. **Receive an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) for my second dose 12 weeks following my first dose**

**To understand your options - please review this information sheet carefully and make sure any questions you may have are answered by a health care professional.**

**Please tick the box to indicate you have read each statement below.**

**Option 1: Receive AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine for my second dose**

- I have been informed that the second dose of the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine is currently offered on or after 12 weeks following the first dose. Clinical trial data and real-world evidence show that two doses of AstraZeneca/ COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine provides 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 80% protection against symptomatic disease. When the two doses were given closer together (9-12 weeks), protection was estimated at 69%.
- I have been informed that the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine has been associated with an increased risk of the rare and serious blood clotting condition, called Vaccine-Induced Immune Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia (VITT). This is a condition that can be aggressive and challenging to treat. *The rate of VITT after the second dose of AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine appears to be much lower than after the first dose. We are still learning about this as more 2<sup>nd</sup> doses are administered across the world.*
- The rate of VITT in Canada after a 1st dose has been estimated to be approximately 1 in 55,000 doses administered\*.
  - At this time data from the United Kingdom (UK) suggests that the rate of VITT following the second dose is approximately 1 in 600,000 doses administered (18 events following 13.4 million second doses administered in the UK as of May 26, 2021). Information from the UK is being reviewed and reported on an ongoing basis because millions of second doses have been administered there.

\*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 2: Receive an mRNA vaccine for my second dose

- I have been informed that the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) has said that an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer BioNTech or Moderna) can be offered as the second dose in a vaccine series for those that received a first dose of AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine\*
- I have been informed that combining similar vaccines from different manufacturers is not a new practice. For example, different vaccine products have been safely and effectively used to complete vaccine series for influenza, hepatitis A, and many others.
- I have been informed that studies using different COVID-19 vaccine products in a series are ongoing and real-world evidence continue to be shared.\*\* There is evidence that having an mRNA vaccine after an AstraZeneca vaccine will boost the immune response, which is what we expect from any second dose of a vaccine.
  - There is a possibility of increased short-term side effects when using mixed COVID-19 vaccine schedules, including headache, fatigue and feeling generally ill. This was particularly noted with a short interval of 4 weeks between the first and second dose.

It is not yet known if the immune response from a series using different vaccines will be the same as the immune response of a vaccine series that uses the same vaccine. Several studies are currently underway to assess this.

\*\*To read more about the NACI recommendation on mixed vaccine schedules see: [Public Health Agency of Canada: Interchangeability of Authorized COVID-19 vaccines](#)

- I have had the opportunity to ask questions regarding the vaccine I am receiving and to have them answered to my satisfaction.**

To be filled in if direct entry into COVAX<sub>ON</sub> is not possible:

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>
<b>Date of Birth</b>	<b>Identification number (e.g., health card, passport, birth certificate, driver's license)</b>
____ / ____ / ____ month      day      year	