

# **Executive Officer Notice: Pause of the Administration of First Doses of Publicly Funded AstraZeneca / COVISHIELD COVID-19 Vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies**

**May 11, 2021**

Effective May 11, 2021, pharmacies are to pause the rollout and administration of first doses of the AstraZeneca / COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine to eligible individuals. This applies to both of the following products:

- DIN 02512947 - COVISHIELD COVID-19 VACCINE (Verity Pharmaceuticals Inc.)
- PIN 09857655 - COVID-19 VACCINE AstraZeneca

Pharmacies that currently have a supply of AstraZeneca / COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine are asked to hold this stock in a secure refrigerated location in the pharmacy until further direction is provided by the ministry.

Pharmacies are also asked to wait for further guidance from the ministry with respect to the administration of second doses of the AstraZeneca / COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine to eligible individuals, or of their second dose being supplemented with an mRNA vaccine.

The ministry announcement may be accessed at:

<https://news.ontario.ca/en/statement/1000103/ontario-pauses-administration-of-astrazeneca-vaccine>

The Executive Officer Notices respecting the Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 Vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies (Eligibility and Billing) and associated Questions & Answers documents will be updated shortly to reflect this direction regarding the AstraZeneca / COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine.

**Additional Information:**

**For pharmacy billing:**

Please call ODB Pharmacy Help Desk at: 1-800-668-6641

**For COVID-19 vaccine rollout in pharmacy:**

Please email the ministry at: [OPDPInfoBox@ontario.ca](mailto:OPDPInfoBox@ontario.ca)

**For Ministry COVID-19 Vaccine-Relevant Information and Planning Resources**

Please access this [website](#)

**For all other Health Care Providers and the Public:**

Please call ServiceOntario, Infoline at 1-866-532-3161 TTY 1-800-387-5559. In Toronto, TTY 416-327-4282.