

Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Second Doses for Individuals who received First Dose of AstraZeneca / COVISHIELD COVID-19 Vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies

May 21, 2021

This Notice is in follow up to the *Executive Officer Notice: Pause of the Administration of First Doses of Publicly Funded AstraZeneca / COVISHIELD COVID-19 Vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies* published on May 11th, 2021.

On May 11, 2021, the Ministry of Health announced a pause to the rollout and administration of first doses of the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine to eligible individuals. Pharmacies that currently have a supply of these products were asked to hold this stock in a secure refrigerated location in the pharmacy

For a limited time during the **week of May 24 to 31, 2021**, individuals who received the AstraZeneca / COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine for their first dose between March 10 to 19, 2021 may choose to receive their second dose with the same vaccine at an earlier dose interval of 10 weeks¹, if they have provided informed consent. These individuals are encouraged to contact the pharmacy where they received the first dose to book an appointment for their second dose. The Ministry also encourages pharmacies to reach out to eligible individuals to book an appointment for their second dose.

The recommended AstraZeneca / COVISHIELD second dose interval is 12 weeks for individuals who do not wish to receive a second dose of the AstraZeneca / COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine at the earlier interval of 10 weeks or who received their first dose of the AstraZeneca / COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine after March 20, 2021. Further details will be provided soon on booking second dose COVID-19 vaccine appointments for these

¹ Data from clinical trials have demonstrated optimal vaccine efficacy of the AstraZeneca vaccine when the interval between the first and second doses was ≥ 12 weeks (estimated at over 80%).* compared to shorter intervals (estimated at 69% for the interval of 9-12 weeks)* ([*NACI, Appendix C: Table 9](#))

individuals. All individuals who received a first dose of the AstraZeneca / COVISHIELD vaccine will receive either an AstraZeneca or mRNA vaccine for their second dose.

As part of the guidance provided by the Chief Medical Officer of Health, individuals who received a first dose with the AstraZeneca / COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine will be required to complete a new informed consent form prior to the administration of a second dose with the AstraZeneca / COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine. This new informed consent form will be provided to pharmacies as soon as possible.

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

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.