

# ***Updated: Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 Vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility***

**Effective May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021**

Certain eligible pharmacies can administer publicly funded injectable COVID-19 vaccines to eligible Ontarians (see Pharmacy Eligibility below).

The purpose of this Executive Officer (EO) Notice (Administration of the Publicly Funded COVID-19 Vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – **Eligibility**), the EO Notice: Administration of the Publicly Funded COVID-19 Vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – **Billing**, and the accompanying Questions and Answers (Qs & As) documents, are to set out the terms and conditions for a participating pharmacy's submission of claims for payment (claims) for administering injectable COVID-19 vaccines to eligible Ontarians. Each document is a ministry policy that pharmacy operators must comply with under section 3.2 of the Health Network System (HNS) Subscription Agreement for Pharmacy Operators.

The two (2) EO Notices and the accompanying Qs & As documents are **not** intended to describe a pharmacy operator's obligations in respect of administering injectable COVID-19 vaccines under applicable legislation, other agreements with the Province of Ontario, or policies of the OCP. Pharmacy operators with questions about their legal obligations outside of the HNS Subscription Agreement should refer to the applicable legislation, other agreement, or OCP policy as appropriate.

This EO Notice (Administration of the Publicly Funded COVID-19 Vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – **Eligibility**) replaces the previous EO notice on the same topic respecting the administration of publicly funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario pharmacies that was effective May 23, 2021.

## **Pharmacy eligibility**

In order to be eligible to submit claims for administering a publicly funded COVID-19 vaccine, a pharmacy operator (also referred to in this document as a “participating pharmacy”) must be selected to participate by the ministry and meet the following requirements:

- Have a valid HNS Subscription Agreement with the ministry
- Have a valid agreement with the ministry respecting COVID-19 vaccine administration and the use of the Provincial COVID-19 vaccine solution (the “COVID-19 Vaccine Agreement”); and
- Enrolled in the 2020-21 Universal Influenza Immunization Program (UIIP).

This eligibility criteria may be updated from time to time. Please refer to the [ministry website](#) for the most recent version of this notice.

## Patient eligibility

**Table 1 – Eligibility for first dose administration\***

Vaccine Product	Eligibility Criteria
Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine (DIN: 02509210)	Individuals who are 12 years of age or older at the time of vaccination
COVID-19 vaccine MODERNA (DIN: 02510014)	Individuals who are 18 years of age or older at the time of vaccination

**Table 2 – Eligibility for second dose administration\*\***

At this time, patients are only eligible to receive a second dose of the same vaccine product they received for their first dose (i.e. no mixing). This rule applies to the interpretation of the following table.

Note: Ontario has already begun offering second doses of COVID-19 vaccines at a shortened interval to certain groups, including [high-risk health care workers](#), individuals with certain health conditions and First Nations, Inuit and Métis individuals<sup>1</sup>.

Individuals who received their first dose of AstraZeneca / COVISHIED between March 10 to March 19, 2021 may have opted for an earlier dose interval of 10 weeks<sup>2</sup>. Acceleration of AstraZeneca second doses will proceed on a 12-week interval, with booking eligibility based on date of first dose.

<sup>1</sup> Please refer to COVID-19 vaccine relevant information and Guidance documents at this [website](#).

<sup>2</sup> Please refer to the 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](#))

Vaccine Product	Eligibility Criteria
COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine (DIN: 02512947)  and  COVID-19 vaccine AstraZeneca (PIN: 09857655)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals who received their first dose on or after March 20, 2021; AND</li> <li>• At least 12 weeks have passed since the individual's first dose</li> </ul>
Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine (DIN: 02509210)  and  COVID-19 vaccine MODERNA (DIN: 02510014)	<p><u>As of May 31, 2021:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals who are 80 years of age or older; AND</li> <li>• At least 4 weeks have passed since the individual's first dose</li> </ul> <p><u>As of June 14, 2021:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals who are 70 years of age or older; AND</li> <li>• At least 4 weeks have passed since the individual's first dose</li> </ul> <p><u>As of June 28, 2021:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals who received their first dose during the period of March 8 to April 18, 2021</li> </ul> <p><u>As of July 19, 2021:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals who received their first dose during the period of April 19 to May 9, 2021</li> </ul> <p><u>As of August 2, 2021:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individuals who received their first dose during the period of May 10 to May 30, 2021</li> </ul> <p><u>As of August 9, 2021:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All other individuals (including those aged 12 to 25 years) who received their first dose from May 31 onwards; AND</li> </ul>

- |  |  |
|--|--|
|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• At least 4 weeks have passed since the individual's first dose</li></ul> |
|--|--|

\* See Executive Officer Notice dated May 11, 2021 regarding the Ministry of Health's direction to pause the administration of first doses of publicly funded AstraZeneca / COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario pharmacies, available [here](#).

\*\*In addition to complying with the above eligibility criteria, pharmacists are encouraged to administer second doses with reference to the administration of first doses using a "first-in-first-out" policy. For example, if Individual "A" received their first dose before Individual "B", then Individual "A" should receive their second dose before Individual "B".

This eligibility criteria may be updated from time to time. Please refer to the [ministry website](#) for the most recent version of this notice and for details of the provincial rollout plan, please visit the [ministry's website](#).

## Prior EO Notices

- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies, effective March 10, 2021.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective March 22, 2021.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective April 1, 2021.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective April 19, 2021.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective April 30, 2021.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective May 6, 2021.
- Executive Officer Notice: Pause of the Administration of First Doses of Publicly Funded AstraZeneca / COVISHIELD COVID-19 Vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies (May 11, 2021)
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective May 13, 2021.
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective May 18, 2021.

- 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)
- Executive Officer Notice: Administration of Publicly Funded COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility, effective May 23, 2021.

**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.