

Updated: Questions and Answers for Patients: COVID-19 Vaccine Immunization through Ontario Pharmacies

This Questions and Answers document provides information to patients on the availability of COVID-19 Vaccine Immunization through Ontario pharmacies.

Effective March 10, 2021, the Government of Ontario is publicly funding COVID-19 vaccines for immunization at participating pharmacies in Ontario.

1. Who can get a COVID-19 vaccine at a pharmacy?

Individuals in Ontario may be eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine at a participating pharmacy. Eligibility criteria is expected to change as COVID-19 vaccine supply becomes available.

Please refer to the [ministry website](#) for the most recent Executive Officer Notice entitled “Administration of the Publicly Funded COVID-19 Vaccines in Ontario Pharmacies – Eligibility”.

2. How do I know if I belong to a priority group targeted for COVID-19 vaccination?

Priority populations are identified based on current public health guidelines and considerations and may change as the pandemic situation evolves. Please contact your local [public health unit](#) and visit the ministry’s website [COVID-19 vaccines for Ontario | COVID-19 \(coronavirus\) in Ontario](#) for up-to-date information on who is eligible.

Please also access the Ontario Government [website](#) for updates to the provincial rollout and population priority groups.

3. Which pharmacy can provide me with the COVID-19 vaccine?

You can locate a participating pharmacy at [this link](#).

Please call ahead to the pharmacy to find out their booking procedures as some pharmacies may only administer vaccines by pre-booked appointment; while other pharmacies may choose to offer walk-in appointments.

4. What do I need to bring with me to the pharmacy to get my COVID-19 vaccine?

When you go to the pharmacy, you should provide a valid Ontario health card number.

If you do not have an Ontario health card number, you may still receive a publicly funded COVID-19 vaccine using an alternate identification and providing your date of birth and contact information to the pharmacy.

Other forms of patient identification may include:

- Birth Certificate
- First Nations ID
- Passport
- MRN (Medical Record Number)
- Out of Province ID
- Driver's Licence

5. Which COVID-19 vaccine is being offered at pharmacies?

For the publicly funded COVID-19 vaccine immunization, pharmacists will be providing the COVID-19 vaccine that is available according to the provincial vaccine rollout plan.

For more information about COVID-19 vaccines, please refer to Public Health Ontario's website at this [link](#).

6. Are pharmacists prepared to provide COVID-19 vaccines? What quality standards will be followed?

Pharmacists, registered pharmacy students, interns and pharmacy technicians are authorized to administer the COVID-19 vaccine provided they have the appropriate injection training, have registered this training with the Ontario College of Pharmacists (OCP), and are working at a pharmacy that has entered into an agreement with the Ministry of Health to provide COVID-19 vaccines.

7. What happens before and after the vaccination at the pharmacy?

The pharmacist will provide details on the process before the COVID-19 vaccine immunization begins, as well as answer any other questions you may have.

Patients, or their substitute decision-makers, will be required to provide consent for the COVID-19 vaccine administration and related data collection. Pharmacy staff will provide you with written vaccine information and after-care instructions as well as a written receipt with the pharmacy contact information that you received the vaccine, including a scheduled time and date and instructions for your second dose, if applicable, a pharmacy may also provide an electronic receipt containing this information .

Individuals must keep their receipt for their vaccination in a safe place and bring it to their appointment for the second dose of the vaccine.

Patients are asked to wait for 15 minutes after receiving their vaccine to ensure they are feeling well. Longer waiting times of 30 minutes may be recommended if there is a concern about a possible vaccine allergy.

Individuals are advised to continue to follow the recommendation of public health officials to prevent the spread of COVID-19, which include wearing a mask, staying at least 2 meters from others and limiting/avoiding contact with others outside their household.

8. What happens after receiving the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine?

After the first dose, the pharmacy will schedule an appointment for your second dose. Individuals are strongly advised to return to the same pharmacy location for their second dose and follow the instructions provided by their pharmacist to ensure they receive the second dose at the right time. The pharmacy will contact you should there be a need to reschedule the appointment for reasons such as vaccine supply.

- In the case of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine, individuals may be directed to return up to 4 months after receiving the first dose.

9. What if I cannot make it on the day of my scheduled second dose?

If you need to reschedule the arrangements made for the second dose, please contact the pharmacy as soon as possible for scheduling an alternate day/time.

The pharmacy staff is required to schedule the second dose (if applicable) and give you instructions on how you can reach them, as well as how they will reach you should there be a need to reschedule due to issues such as vaccine supply.

10. Where can I get more information?

For more information related to COVID-19 and the service of vaccine immunization, talk to your health care provider or visit the following webpages:

COVID-19 vaccines for Ontario: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccines-ontario>

COVID-19 vaccine information: www.publichealthontario.ca/en/diseases-and-conditions/infectious-diseases/respiratory-diseases/novel-coronavirus/vaccines

COVID-19 Resources: www.publichealthontario.ca/en/diseases-and-conditions/infectious-diseases/respiratory-diseases/novel-coronavirus/public-resources