

Ministry of Health

COVID-19 Guidance for Individuals

Vaccinated outside of Ontario/Canada

V. 1.0 June 4, 2021

This guidance provides basic information only. This document is not intended to provide or take the place of medical advice, diagnosis or treatment, or legal advice.

In the event of any conflict between this guidance document and any applicable emergency orders, or directives issued by the Minister of Health, Minister of Long-Term Care, or the Chief Medical Officer of Health (CMOH), the order or directive prevails.

- Please check the Ministry of Health (MOH) [COVID-19 website](#) regularly for updates to this document, list of symptoms, other guidance documents, Directives and other information.

Background

This document is intended to provide health care providers and Public Health Units (PHUs) with approaches for individuals who have received COVID-19 vaccination outside of Ontario or Canada. In Canada, the following COVID-19 vaccines are currently authorized for use by Health Canada: Pfizer-BioNTech (mRNA), Moderna (mRNA), AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD (viral vector), Janssen/Johnson & Johnson (viral vector).

The [COVID-19 Vaccine Tracker](#) can be used to determine which COVID-19 vaccines are available in different countries. In addition, several COVID-19 vaccines have been listed for emergency use by the World Health Organization (WHO), with additional recommendations on use provided by the WHO's [Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization \(SAGE\)](#). The WHO's emergency use list (EUL) will be updated over time and individuals should be aware that this list is evolving based on additional data before they make a decision about re-immunization in Ontario. More information on COVID-19 vaccines listed for emergency use can be found on the [WHO website](#), under the tab "Status of COVID-19 vaccines within WHO EUL/PQ evaluation process." As of May 31st, the following COVID-19 vaccines are listed:

Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines (e.g. COMIRNATY, Tozinameran), AstraZeneca-Oxford (e.g. Covishield, Vaxzevria), Janssen (Johnson & Johnson), Moderna, Sinopharm.

Individuals Vaccinated outside of Canada/Ontario

- Proof of immunization (e.g. an immunization record, proof of vaccination certificate (PVC))¹ is required to verify the COVID-19 vaccine product received outside of Canada or Ontario.²
- Second doses for all individuals who received a first COVID-19 vaccine dose outside of Canada or Ontario should follow the intervals recommended by Ontario.³
- Individuals who have received a partial or complete COVID-19 vaccine series outside of Ontario or Canada should contact their [local public health unit](#) to have their COVID-19 immunization record documented into COVaxON.
- No data are available on the safety or efficacy of receiving a COVID-19 vaccine currently authorized in Canada after receipt of a non-Health Canada authorized COVID-19 vaccine.
- However, in some circumstances people who received a COVID-19 vaccine not currently authorized by Health Canada may be offered revaccination with a Health Canada authorized vaccine, as below.

Scenario 1: COVID-19 vaccines authorized by Health Canada administered outside of Ontario

- Individuals who have received all recommended doses of a Health Canada authorized COVID-19 vaccine given outside of Ontario or Canada are considered to have a complete vaccine series and no additional doses are needed.

¹ See Canadian Immunization Guide to [Immunization records](#)

² The [Canadian Immunization Guide](#) outlines that vaccination should only be considered valid if there is written documentation of administration.

³ For two dose vaccine series, the Ontario recommended interval is up to 16 weeks unless the individual falls within a group that is eligible for a shortened second dose interval. For more detail see the MOH's [Recommendations on Exceptions to Extended Dose Intervals for COVID-19 vaccines](#).

- Individuals who received the first dose of a two-dose Health Canada authorized COVID-19 vaccine series outside of Ontario or Canada do not need to restart the vaccine series, but should receive the second dose as close to the interval recommended by Ontario as possible.⁴

Scenario 2: COVID-19 vaccines not authorized by Health Canada, but listed for emergency use by the WHO⁵

- Individuals who have received all recommended doses of a COVID-19 vaccine that has been listed for emergency use by the WHO are considered to have a complete vaccine series and do not need any additional doses.
- At this time, individuals who have not received all recommended doses of a COVID-19 vaccine listed for emergency use by WHO may be offered a new series of a Health Canada authorized COVID-19 vaccine.⁶

Scenario 3: COVID-19 vaccines neither authorized by Health Canada nor listed for emergency use by the WHO

- Individuals who have received all or some of the recommended doses of a COVID-19 vaccine that is neither authorized by Health Canada nor listed for emergency use by WHO should be offered a new series of a Health Canada authorized COVID-19 vaccine.⁵

Scenario 4: Unknown COVID-19 Vaccine Product

- If the individual indicates that they have received a previous dose(s) of a COVID-19 vaccine, but have no proof of immunization, consider whether further investigation can be done to obtain proof of immunization and

⁴ NACI recommends that the vaccine series be completed with the same COVID-19 vaccine product. If the vaccine product used for a previously received dose is not known, or not available, attempts should be made to complete the vaccine series with a similar type of COVID-19 vaccine (e.g., mRNA vaccine and mRNA vaccine). See [NACI's recommendations on interchangeability](#).

⁵ See [WHO's list of COVID-19 vaccines listed for emergency use](#) for more information. This list will continue to be updated as additional COVID-19 vaccines receive emergency use listing.

⁶ As per [NACI recommendations](#), an interval of at least 28 days after the administration of any other vaccine should be taken before administering the Health Canada authorized COVID-19 vaccine. This will help to prevent erroneous attribution of an AEFI to a particular vaccine.

necessary information (e.g., contacting clinic location/health care provider or immunizer etc.).

- If the COVID-19 vaccine product used for a previous dose(s) remains unknown, a new vaccine series should be started with a Health Canada authorized COVID-19 vaccine.
 - If the previous date of immunization was known, it would be prudent to wait for a period of at least 28 days after the administration of any other COVID-19 vaccine dose(s) before initiating a new Health Canada authorized COVID-19 vaccine series. This interval is suggested since it is the minimum interval common to many vaccines; it will also help to prevent erroneous attribution of an AEFI to a particular vaccine.

Individuals leaving Canada before Completion of COVID-19 Vaccine Series

- If an individual needs to leave Ontario or Canada before completion of their COVID-19 vaccination series, they should bring proof of immunization from their first dose. These individuals should contact the health authority in the jurisdiction they arrive in to complete their COVID-19 vaccine series.

COVaxON Documentation

- PHUs are responsible for documenting individuals who have received a partial or complete COVID-19 vaccine series outside of Ontario into COVaxON. The information stated on the client's proof of vaccination will need to be entered.
- See the COVaxON job aid and functionality change communications for more information.
- Functionality has been developed within COVaxON under 'historical dose administration' to account for two scenarios:
 - A. Out of Province (OOP):** A client may have received one/both doses outside of Ontario and therefore it was not recorded in COVaxON. The historical OOP dose(s) must be recorded in COVaxON.

- **For a client that had Dose 1 OOP:** The client must contact their PHU to enter the dose 1 historical dose prior to booking their appointment for dose 2.
 - **For a client that had both doses or only Dose 2 OOP:** The client should contact their PHU to enter those historical doses.
- B. Non-Ontario Stock (NOS):** A client may have received one/both doses from Non-Ontario vaccine stock (i.e. Federal Stock used for Correctional Facilities, Military groups, Embassies, etc.). The historical NOS dose(s) can be recorded in COVax_{ON}. The location that conducted the vaccination will provide a list of data to be entered in COVax_{ON} by the PHU/approved group. If the client received their first dose via NOS, the historical entry needs to be made prior to booking their second dose appointment.