COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Individuals who received a first dose of the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine

Version 3.0 – June 14, 2021

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

Getting a first dose of AstraZeneca /COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine was the right thing to do. It is protecting you and others from severe illness.

A second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine is needed for the best protection against COVID-19. Being fully vaccinated is especially important because it provides much better protection than only one dose against the new delta variant of COVID-19 that is now in Ontario.

If you had an AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD (AZ) COVID-19 vaccine as your first dose, you have a choice about the type of vaccine you would like for your second dose. Make sure any questions you may have are answered by a health care professional.

1. Receive AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine for my second dose 8-12 weeks following my first dose
2. Receive an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) for my second dose 8-12 weeks following my first dose

This document will help you to decide what choice is right for you.

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) has said that it is a safe to ‘mix’ vaccine types to complete a series, and so if you received an AZ vaccine as your first dose, it is safe to receive an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) as a second dose. More information about NACI’s recommendations can be found on their website.
Here is what we know about mixing:

- Early studies suggest that getting an mRNA vaccine after the first dose of an AZ vaccine may create a better immune response, including against variants of concern, than a second dose of AZ vaccine. Several studies are ongoing to assess this further. It is possible that a better immune response with the mixed schedule will mean better protection and/or longer duration of protection. We are continuing to learn about this.

- There is a possibility of increased short-term side effects after the second dose when using different vaccine types, including headache, fatigue and muscle aches.

Two doses of AZ provide good protection against symptomatic COVID-19 and severe outcomes, like hospitalizations and death. You may get your second dose of AZ vaccine any time after 8 weeks.

- Clinical trials showed that AZ vaccine offers the best protection when the two doses are spread out by 12 weeks. When the doses were spread out by ≥12 weeks, it provided an estimated 82% protection against symptomatic disease. When the two doses were given closer together (9-12 weeks), protection was estimated at 69%.

The AZ vaccine has been linked with a very rare but serious blood clotting disease called Vaccine-Induced Immune Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia, or VITT.* This is a condition that can be very serious and hard to treat. According to reports from several countries including Canada, there is around 1 case of VITT for every 55,000 people given dose 1 of AstraZeneca. For dose 2, the risk of VITT is estimated to be 1 for every 600,000 vaccinated. These estimates may change as more people around the world have dose 2 and we learn more. The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines do not cause VITT.

*To learn more about VITT, see the Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table document: [Vaccine-Induced Immune Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia (VITT) Following Adenovirus Vector COVID-19 Vaccination: Lay Summary - Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table](#)

- Option 1: Receive AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine for my second dose
- Option 2: Receive an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine for my second dose
- I have had the opportunity to ask questions regarding the vaccine I am receiving and to have them answered to my satisfaction.
To be filled in if direct entry into COVAXON is not possible:

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<th>Last Name</th>
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<th>Date of Birth</th>
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