

COVID-19 Vaccination

2nd dose choice for people who received AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD



Choosing which vaccine to get for your 2nd dose

If you received AstraZeneca or COVISHIELD as your 1st dose you will get to choose to get AstraZeneca or an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) for your 2nd dose.

No matter which vaccine you choose, no safety signals have been detected from mixing vaccine types. There is also adequate vaccine supply for you to make a decision without worrying whether that vaccine will be available.

Here are a few things to consider when choosing which vaccine to get for your 2nd dose.

AstraZeneca vaccine for your 2nd dose

- There is a very rare risk of serious blood clots associated with the AstraZeneca vaccine. The risk for people who received the 2nd dose is about 1 in 600,000. The risk is six times lower for the 2nd dose than the 1st dose, which is about 1 in 100,000.
- There is good clinical trial data, as well as real-life vaccine effectiveness data from vaccination programs, on getting two doses of AstraZeneca. The effectiveness of getting AstraZeneca for both doses is similar to the effectiveness of getting two doses of mRNA vaccine in the prevention of serious cases of COVID-19.
- You are likely to experience milder side effects after getting your 2nd dose with the same vaccine than if you get an AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine followed by an mRNA vaccine.

mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) for your 2nd dose

- There is no risk of serious blood clots with the mRNA vaccines.
- You may experience more short-term side effects if you get an mRNA vaccine for your 2nd dose, including fever, muscle aches, joint aches, etc. These side effects are temporary, and you will feel better in a few days. You can treat any discomfort by taking medication such as acetaminophen (Tylenol®) or ibuprofen (Advil®).
- Mixed vaccine schedules were not tested in initial clinical trials, and real-world effectiveness data on mixed schedules is not yet available. More results from ongoing studies are expected in the coming weeks and months.
- The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) made recommendations on getting either AstraZeneca or an mRNA vaccine for your 2nd dose based on expert opinion, data from smaller studies, and one larger UK study focused on safety. Similar vaccines from different manufacturers are also often used interchangeably in other vaccination programs.

COVID-19 Vaccination

2nd dose choice for people who received AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD



The 2nd dose is the essential second half of your vaccine series

It's important that you complete the vaccine series – you are not fully vaccinated until you've had both doses. This is because both doses are needed to get the most effective protection against serious cases of COVID-19. A 2nd dose also offers longer-lasting protection.

Registering and booking your 2nd dose appointment

For further information on how to book a 2nd dose, visit [Get Your 2nd Vaccine Dose](#) on the BC Government website at gov.bc.ca/dose2.

Where to get AstraZeneca and mRNA (Pfizer or Moderna) vaccines

- AstraZeneca vaccines will only be available through participating pharmacies.
- mRNA vaccines (Pfizer or Moderna) will only be available through mass immunization clinics (like community centres).

Please talk with your primary care provider, pharmacist, or call 8-1-1 (HealthLink BC) if you have any questions prior to booking an appointment for one of these vaccines.

If you would like an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna), register at www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca