

Ministry of Health

COVID-19 AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine Management Q & A Health Care Providers

Q: When are the doses in primary care set to expire?

A: Please see table below for AZ/COVISHILED (AZ) Lot# and expiry dates in COVax:

Product	Lot #	Expiry
Astra-Zeneca	CTMAV532	06/30/2021
Astra-Zeneca	MT0055	05/31/2021
Astra-Zeneca	MT0056	05/31/2021
Astra-Zeneca	NA0079	06/30/2021
COVISHIELD	4120Z003	04/02/2021
COVISHIELD	4120Z029	06/27/2021

Q: What should we do with currently scheduled appointments for patients who were to receive the AstraZeneca (AZ) vaccine as their first dose?

A: Health Care providers have been directed to cancel any first dose appointments that have been booked with AZ. If an individual's pharmacy or primary care practice has been allocated Moderna or Pfizer the individual can reach out to determine if there is appointment availability. Otherwise they can visit [Ontario.ca/bookvaccine](https://ontario.ca/bookvaccine) or contact their local PHU to determine how to book a vaccine through an alternate channel.

Q: What about our high-risk patients who are exempt from the extended dose interval and are scheduled to receive a second dose?

A: Those patient groups exempt from the recommended 16-week dose interval should continue to be prioritized for second doses, timed according to the recommendation of their treating provider. These groups include those listed in the current [guidance for medical exceptions](#). The AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine may be used for second doses as per the direction from the Chief Medical Officer of Health. The shortened dose interval may be offered within the product monograph for AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine for these patient groups, which is 4 to 12 weeks, noting favourable efficacy results in the clinical trials for a dose interval of ≥ 12 weeks. mRNA vaccines are not being offered at this time for second doses. This may change as the outcomes of clinical trials are published and the safety and efficacy of a 'mixed-model' is better understood.

Q: What is the plan to move more mRNA doses into primary care practices and pharmacies?

A: Primary care practices and pharmacies are essential to ongoing vaccination efforts in Ontario. The province began allocating Moderna to a number of PHUs for their primary care practices during the week of May 10th and is gradually ramping up to provide to additional PHUs and practices across the province. In addition, many PHUs have been utilizing primary care as a key delivery channel for their vaccine distribution strategy. The expansion of Pfizer and Moderna to pharmacies is continuing through May with over 2400 pharmacies across the province providing one of the mRNA vaccines by the end of the month.

Q: Does anything specific need to be done regarding inventory in COVax?

A: If you are currently holding any open vials, Authorized Organizations (AOs) need to create wastage event(s) for these vials (quantities entered in doses) with the wastage reason "WR -DR-Dose(s) Remaining in a Multi-dose Vial".

The ministry may provide further direction for full vials that you are holding prior to the expiration date. Should doses pass their expiration date, a wastage event with

reason "WR - BE - Stored in ult/freezer temperatures beyond expiry date" would be the reason to enter in the inventory record.

In a future release of COVax, the reason will be updated to "WR - BE - Stored in ult/freezer/fridge temperatures beyond expiry date" to accommodate specifically for AZ/COVISHIELD doses.