

Ministry of Health

COVID-19 Vaccine Series Second Dose Eligibility Quick Reference

Version 2.0 June 14, 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.

- Please check the Ministry of Health (MOH) [COVID-19](#) website regularly for updates to this document, mental health resources, and other information,

This guidance is applicable for all 2-dose COVID-19 vaccines series in Ontario and based on current vaccine availability.

What is new in the Version 2.0?

- Clarification that AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine can be given at no less than 8 weeks, except where a shorter interval is needed to accommodate other treatments and therapies.¹ In these rare situations, the timing of the vaccine may be decided in consultation with the treating provider, in collaboration with clinic sites in order to optimize the immune response from the vaccine series for the patient and minimize delays in management of the individual's underlying condition.
- Accelerated second dose timing for individuals who live in regions with an increased prevalence of Delta variant virus (B.1.617.2) and who received their 1st vaccine dose on or before May 9th. Public health units with an increased prevalence of Delta variant transmission are currently Halton, Peel, Porcupine, Toronto, Waterloo, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph and York.

¹ See [COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Individuals that received a first dose of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine/COVISHIELD vaccine](#) for support on decision making and more information.

Population Group	Dose Intervals		
	Pfizer-BioNTech	Moderna	AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD
Residents in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term Care Homes • Retirement Homes • Elder Care Lodges • Assisted Living facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product monograph authorized interval of 21 days; an interval of 28 days may be considered for operational feasibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product monograph authorized interval of 4 weeks (28 days) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals may choose to have a second dose of an AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine or an mRNA vaccine at an interval of no less than 8 weeks.²

² See [COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Individuals that received a first dose of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine/COVISHIELD vaccine](#)) for support on decision making and more information.

Population Group	Dose Intervals**		
	Pfizer-BioNTech	Moderna	AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD
<p>Individuals who are recipients of, or undergoing³:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transplants (including solid organ transplant and hematopoietic stem cell transplants) • Hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis • An anti-CD20 agent (e.g., rituximab, ocrelizumab, ofatumumab) • Stable, active treatment[‡] (chemotherapy, targeted therapies, immunotherapy) for malignant hematologic disorders • Stable, active treatment[‡] (chemotherapy, targeted therapies, immunotherapy) for non-hematologic malignant solid tumors <p>‡Note: This excludes individuals receiving solely hormonal therapy and/or radiation therapy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product monograph authorized interval of 21 days**; an interval of 28 days may be considered for operational feasibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product monograph authorized interval of 4 weeks (28 days)** 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals may choose to have a second dose of an AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine or an mRNA vaccine at the product monograph interval of 4-12 weeks.**⁴

**The timing of the vaccine may be decided with the treating provider in collaboration with clinic sites in order to optimize the immune response from the vaccine series and minimize delays in management of the individual's underlying condition.

³ See the [Vaccine Clinical Advisory Group \(VCAG\) Recommendations on Exceptions to Extended Dose Intervals for COVID-19 vaccines](#) for more information.

⁴ See [COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Individuals that received a first dose of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine/COVISHIELD vaccine](#) for support on decision making and more information.

Population Group	Dose Intervals		
	Pfizer-BioNTech	Moderna	AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD
All First Nations, Inuit & Metis (including non-Indigenous partners, household members and adolescents aged 12-17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Product monograph authorized interval of 21 days (as booking and local vaccine supply allows) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A for adolescents Product monograph authorized interval of 4 weeks (28 days) (as booking and local vaccine supply allows) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A for adolescents Individuals may choose to have a second dose of an AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine or an mRNA vaccine at an interval of no less than 8 weeks.⁵

⁵ See [COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Individuals that received a first dose of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine/COVISHIELD vaccine](#) for support on decision making and more information.

Population Group	Dose Intervals		
	Pfizer-BioNTech	Moderna	AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD
<p>The following Health Care Workers⁶:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All hospital and acute care staff in frontline roles with COVID-19 patients and/or with a high-risk of exposure to COVID-19, including nurses and personal support workers and those performing aerosol-generating procedures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Critical Care Units ○ Emergency Departments and Urgent Care Departments ○ COVID-19 Medical Units ○ Code Blue Teams, rapid response teams ○ General internal medicine and other specialists involved in the direct care of COVID-19 positive patients • All patient-facing health care workers involved in the COVID-19 response: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product monograph authorized interval of 21 days (as booking and vaccine supply allows); an interval of 28 days may be considered for operational feasibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product monograph authorized interval of 4 weeks (28 days) (as booking and vaccine supply allows) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individuals may choose to have a second dose of an AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine or an mRNA vaccine at an interval of no less than 8 weeks.⁷

⁶ See [High-Risk Health Care Workers Eligible to Receive a Second Dose of the COVID-19 Vaccine at a Shortened Interval | Ontario Newsroom](#) for more information

⁷ See [COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Individuals that received a first dose of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine/COVISHIELD vaccine](#) for support on decision making and more information.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ COVID-19 Specimen Collection Centers (e.g., Assessment centers, community COVID-19 testing locations) ○ Teams supporting outbreak response (e.g., IPAC teams supporting outbreak management, inspectors in the patient environment, redeployed health care workers supporting outbreaks or staffing crisis in congregate living settings) ○ COVID-19 vaccine clinics and mobile immunization teams ○ Mobile Testing Teams ○ COVID-19 Isolation Centers ○ COVID-19 Laboratory Services ○ Current members of Ontario's Emergency Medical Assistance Team (EMAT) who may be deployed at any time to support an emergency response ● Medical First Responders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ORNGE ○ Paramedics ○ Firefighters providing medical first response as part of their regular duties ○ Police and special constables providing medical first response as part of their regular duties 			
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community health care workers serving specialized populations including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Needle exchange/syringe programs and supervised consumption and treatment services ○ Indigenous health care service providers including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aboriginal Health Access Centers, Indigenous Community Health Centers, ▪ Indigenous Interprofessional Primary Care Teams, and Indigenous Nurse Practitioner-Led Clinics • Long-term care home and retirement-home health care workers, including nurses and personal support workers and Essential Caregivers • Individuals working in Community Health Centers serving disproportionately affected communities and/or communities experiencing highest burden of health, social and economic impacts from COVID-19 • Critical health care workers in remote and hard to access communities (e.g., sole practitioner) 			
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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Home and community care health care workers, including nurses and personal support workers caring for recipients of chronic homecare and seniors in congregate living facilities or providing hands-on care to COVID-19 patients in the community			
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Population Group	Dose Intervals ⁸		
	Pfizer-BioNTech	Moderna	AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD
<p>Adolescents & Youth (Ages 12-25 (including those that are post secondary or international students))</p> <p>(note that First Nation, Inuit and Metis adolescents and youth are captured above)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second doses for adolescents and youth 12-25 will be offered between August 9th and 22nd <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For adolescents that received their first vaccine dose prior to June 14th this will mean an 8 – 16 week dose interval ○ For adolescents that received their first vaccine dose between June 14th and June 27th this will mean an interval of +/- 56 days (8 weeks) ○ For adolescents that received their first dose after June 27th, product 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second doses for youth 18-25 will be offered between August 9th and 22nd <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For 18-25 year olds that received their first vaccine dose prior to June 14th this will mean an 8 – 16 week dose interval ○ For 18-25 year olds that received their first vaccine dose between June 14th and June 27th this will mean an interval of +/- 56 days(8 weeks) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A for adolescents and youth

⁸ Individuals who have received a first dose may be offered a second dose appointment at an earlier interval of four weeks or later based on availability of vaccines. See [Anticipated Schedule for Second Doses of COVID-19 Vaccines](#) for more information.

	<p>monograph will guide the minimum intervals and local circumstances will otherwise dictate the dose interval as indicated by vaccine supply</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For 18-25 year olds that received their first dose after June 27th, product monograph will guide the minimum intervals and local circumstances will otherwise dictate the dose interval as indicated by vaccine supply 	
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Population Group	Dose Intervals ⁹		
	Pfizer-BioNTech	Moderna	AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD
All other individuals (including Health Care Workers not listed above)	<p>For second doses, booking eligibility will open as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Week of May 31: individuals aged 80+ • On June 4: individuals aged 70+ (can book through pharmacies or primary care providers or PHUs using their own booking systems) • Week of June 7: individuals aged 70+ (can book through all channels, including the provincial booking system) • Week of June 7: individuals who received their first dose on or before April 18, on a "first-in, first-out" basis. • On June 14: individuals who received their first doses on or before May 9 who live in Halton, Peel, Porcupine, Toronto, Waterloo, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph and York public health units, where there is currently 		<p>Individuals may choose to have a second dose of an AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine or an mRNA vaccine at an interval of no less than 8 weeks.¹⁰</p>

⁹ Individuals who have received a first dose may be offered a second dose appointment at an earlier interval of four weeks or later based on availability of vaccines. See [Anticipated Schedule for Second Doses of COVID-19 Vaccines](#) for more information.

¹⁰ See [COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Individuals that received a first dose of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine/COVISHIELD vaccine](#) for support on decision making and more information.

	<p>increased Delta variant prevalence. The dose interval should be no shorter than 28 days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Week of July 19: individuals who received their first dose between the week of April 19 to May 9 (apart from those noted above in the areas of increased Delta prevalence), on a “first-in, first-out” basis. Note: these dates may change with the availability of supply.• Week of August 2: individuals who received their first dose between the week of May 10 to May 30, on a “first-in, first-out” basis. Note: these dates may change with the availability of supply.• Week of August 9 to 16: individuals aged 12 to 25• Week of August 9: individuals who received their first dose from the week of May 31 onwards based on the date of their 1st respecting the product monograph authorized intervals for minimum intervals. Note: these dates may change with the availability of supply.	
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