

Accelerated second doses

Recognizing the importance of enhanced protection against the Delta variant, Ontario recently announced that those living in Delta hot spots (Halton, Peel, Porcupine, Toronto, Waterloo, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph, York, Hamilton, Durham and Simcoe-Muskoka) who got their first dose on or before May 30 are [eligible to book or re-book their second dose](#) as of June 23. All Ontarians who received their first dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine on or before May 9 will be eligible to book or re-book their second-dose appointment at a shortened interval as of June 21. In addition, the AstraZeneca second-dose interval has been shortened to eight weeks and those who received AstraZeneca as their first dose may [choose either AstraZeneca or an mRNA vaccine](#) as their second dose. [Refer to these second-dose Q&As for those who received a first dose of AstraZeneca.](#)

COVID-19 vaccine administration in physicians' offices. With more vaccine supply, there is a greater need for family physicians and pediatricians to support the vaccine rollout in their practices. Please [contact your local public health unit](#) to learn more and participate in the vaccine rollout. We recognize the tremendous leadership in primary care; as of this week, nearly 600 primary care practices, and many more physicians, are involved both within these practices as well as in vaccination centres.

Updated AstraZeneca second-dose recommendation. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) has released an updated set of recommendations. NACI now recommends an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer/Moderna) as the second dose for those who received AstraZeneca as their first dose based on emerging evidence of a potentially better immune response from a mixed schedule and to mitigate the potential risk of VITT associated with viral vector vaccines. [Read a summary of NACI's updated recommendations.](#)

Myocarditis/pericarditis after COVID-19 vaccination. Public Health Ontario (PHO) released a [report on following COVID-19 vaccination with an mRNA vaccine](#). Evidence from Israel and the U.S. suggests that cases are more commonly reported after the second dose, the onset of usually mild symptoms occurs within several days after vaccination and symptoms have occurred mainly in adolescents and young adults (more often male). Canada is not seeing higher rates than would be expected, and the Public Health Agency of Canada, Health Canada and PHO are closely monitoring reports of myocarditis/pericarditis after COVID-19 vaccination.

Building confidence in Moderna. The Centre for Effective Practice has released a new [resource for building vaccine confidence in the Moderna](#) vaccine. This resource provides talking tips and supporting information for approaching conversations with patients related to the Moderna vaccine. [Access additional resources on COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy](#).

Vaccine injury support program. The Public Health Agency of Canada's new pan-Canadian [vaccine injury support program](#) is now accepting claims from individuals who experience a serious, permanent injury as a result of receiving a Health Canada authorized vaccine, and those who are dependents or successions of an individual who has died after vaccination.

Reporting adverse events after immunization. Under the *Health Protection and Promotion Act*, all health-care providers who become aware of an adverse event following an authorized vaccine must [complete this form and report it](#), even if they did not provide the vaccination. [Read Public Health Ontario guidance on which adverse events should be reported](#).