

Get Your Second Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine

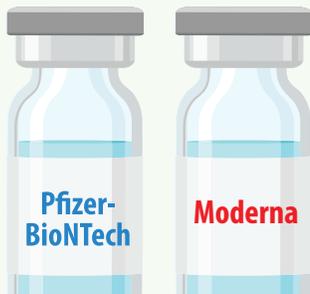
This information is current as of June 15, 2021

Two doses of most COVID-19 vaccines are required for stronger protection from COVID-19. [The Province of Ontario](#), based on [Canada's National Advisory Committee on Immunization \(NACI\)](#), has updated its guidance to allow for “mixing” of or interchanging vaccines for first and second doses.

Interchanging or “mixing” vaccine brands is another option to safely and effectively gain strong protection from COVID-19 as quickly as possible. Research has shown that combining different COVID-19 vaccines does not lead to any additional safety concerns and offers strong protection.



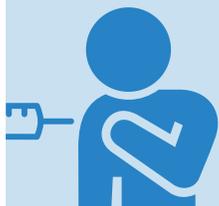
If you received Pfizer or Moderna vaccine for your first dose



- You may receive either Pfizer or Moderna vaccine as your second dose.
- Pfizer and Moderna vaccines use a similar mRNA technology, so the vaccines are interchangeable and safe to mix.
- Pfizer vaccine is approved for those 12 years of age and older. Moderna vaccine is approved for those 18 years of age and older.
- It is not recommended to receive AstraZeneca vaccine as your second dose.

If you received AstraZeneca vaccine for your first dose

- You may receive either AstraZeneca vaccine or an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) as your second dose at a minimum interval of eight weeks.
- There is a possibility of increased temporary short-term side effects after receiving an mRNA vaccine as a second dose, such as pain at the injection site, chills, headache, muscle and joint pain, and fatigue.
- To better understand the benefits and risks of the choices, talk to your health care provider.



If your second COVID-19 vaccine is different than your first dose, you do not need to start your series over again. You will be considered fully immunized two weeks after receiving two doses of Health Canada approved COVID-19 vaccines.

It is important to get your second dose

Receiving both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine is the best way to protect yourself and to stop the spread of COVID-19. Receiving two doses of the vaccine offers more protection against variants of concern. As new variants of COVID-19 continue to emerge around the world, it is important to be fully vaccinated as quickly as possible. The best vaccine for your second dose is the first one available to you.

