

Ministry of Health

COVID-19 Vaccine Availability and Rollout

Version 2.0 – December 30, 2020 (amended January 6, 2021)

This guidance provides basic information only. It is not intended to take the place of medical advice, diagnosis or treatment, legal advice or legal requirements.

- Please check the Ministry of Health (MOH) [COVID-19 website](#) regularly for updates to this document, list of symptoms, other guidance documents, Directives and other information.

As of December 9, 2020, Health Canada has authorized the first COVID-19 vaccine for use in Canada. Over 20 million doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA vaccine have been ordered, with 249,000 doses expected in Canada before the end of December.

As of December 23, 2020, Health Canada has authorized a second COVID-19 vaccine for use in Canada. Up to 56 million doses of the Moderna mRNA vaccine have been ordered.

What you should know:

- **Ontarians can be confident.** Top experts, scientists and medical professionals carefully reviewed all of the scientific data and evidence for the vaccine, for safety and effectiveness.
- **Ontarians who want to know more, can.** Detailed information on the vaccine and the evidence behind the decision is easy to access and openly available.
- **Vaccines prevent disease, save lives and save livelihoods,** and mass vaccination will help Canada's recovery to COVID-19 pandemic.
- **Intergovernmental rollout plan.** All levels of government are working together to develop plans for the efficient, effective and equitable allocation, distribution and administration of COVID-19 vaccines. The rollout plan for COVID-19 vaccines will support:
 - Ongoing monitoring of vaccine uptake
 - Ongoing monitoring of safety and effectiveness
 - Public education and combating misinformation concerning vaccines

- **Delivery efficiency.** Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and Health Canada are working with key partners and stakeholders to identify supply chain risks or capacity gaps that may affect mass vaccination campaigns in Canada. This includes:
 - Working with provincial and territorial partners on identifying potential gaps in the supply chain
 - Procuring additional supplies (e.g., needles and syringes) that will be required for mass vaccination campaign
- **Delivery timing.** Delivery to Canadians will depend on when doses are available from the manufacturer. The timing of delivery will depend on:
 - Timing of the regulatory approval
 - Access to raw materials for vaccine manufacturing
 - The capacity of manufacturers to scale-up production of vaccines
 - Vaccine distribution requirements and plans
 - Whether the vaccine has been pre-positioned in Canada (i.e., vaccine is shipped and stored in Canada prior to approval)

Will Canadians have to pay for the vaccine?

No. Federal, provincial and territorial governments will work together to ensure that Canadians have equitable access to publicly funded pandemic vaccines for COVID-19.

Will the vaccine be mandatory?

No. This vaccine will not be mandatory in Ontario. However, a record of immunization of COVID-19 vaccine may be required for travel, employment or other purposes.

Prioritization

The concepts of equity and fairness are important to the people of Ontario. As such, the Premier has convened a COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Task Force to ensure the fair and equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccine across the province. Based on recommendations from this Task Force along with those from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) Ontario recommends a complete series of COVID-19 vaccine for all individuals in the authorized age group without contraindications to the vaccine. As COVID-19 vaccine supply is limited in the early phases, the following populations should be prioritized for vaccinations according to the authorized immunization schedule (with efforts to ensure completion of the immunization schedule with the same vaccine). More key populations will be announced as more vaccine supply becomes available.

On December 7, 2020, the province announced the key populations that will be first to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, namely:

- Residents, employees and staff, and essential caregivers of congregate living settings that provide care for seniors
- Health care workers (including all those who work in health care settings and those in direct contact with patients)
- Adults in First Nations, Métis, and Inuit populations where infection can have disproportionate consequences, including those living in remote or isolated areas
- Adult recipients of chronic home health care

Vaccines under review and purchase agreements

The Government of Canada has signed agreements with a number of leading pharmaceutical companies to establish a guaranteed supply base of potential vaccine candidates. All vaccine candidates must undergo successful clinical trials and receive Health Canada approval before they can be given to Canadians. Most of the vaccines listed below require two doses to be effective.

Company	Type of vaccine	Doses ordered
Purchased vaccines under review		
AstraZeneca	viral vector vaccine	up to 20 million doses
Johnson & Johnson/ Janssen Inc.	viral vector	up to 38 million doses
Purchased vaccines not yet under review by Health Canada		
Sanofi and GSK	adjuvanted recombinant protein-based vaccine	up to 72 million doses
Novavax	protein-based vaccine	up to 76 million doses
Medicago	virus-like particle vaccine	up to 76 million doses
Total ordered		up to 282 million doses (141 million people)