

# Did you receive AstraZeneca for your first dose?

## Here's what you need to know.



Current as of: June 14, 2021

**1.** Getting AstraZeneca for your first dose was the **right decision**. It's protecting you and others from severe COVID-19.

**2.** Although studies are currently being done to determine the immune response when mixing vaccine types, based on current information, it has been determined that mixing vaccines is a **safe and effective** option.

**3.** Deciding on either AstraZeneca or Moderna or Pfizer\* for your second dose:  
*\*Moderna and Pfizer have similar benefits and side effects.*

### Second Dose of AstraZeneca

- Clinical trials showed the best protection when the two doses are spread out by 12 weeks.
- The rate of Vaccine-Induced Immune Thrombotic Thrombocytopenia (VITT) after the second dose of AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine appears to be much lower than after the first dose.

### Second Dose of Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech

- Recommended by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI).
- Combining similar vaccines from different manufacturers is not a new practice.
- Studies using different COVID-19 vaccine products in a series are ongoing and real-world evidence continues to be shared.
- There is evidence that having an mRNA vaccine after an AstraZeneca vaccine will boost the immune response, which is what we expect from any second dose of a vaccine.
- There is a possibility of increased short-term side effects when using mixed COVID-19 vaccine schedules, including headache, fatigue and feeling generally ill. This was particularly noted with a short interval of 4 weeks between the first and second dose.

**4.** With any vaccine you get for your second dose (AstraZeneca, Moderna, or Pfizer), you may feel more, the same, or fewer side effects than your first dose. Side effects can include a sore arm, fatigue, headache, body aches, and chills for 1-3 days.

**5.** You must read and understand the document [COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Individuals who received a first dose of the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine](#) prior to receiving your second dose.

**i** **Note: Individuals are now eligible for their second dose 8 weeks after their first dose. The recommendation for optimal protection is still to wait 12 weeks.**

**This can be a tough choice. If you have questions about getting your second dose, ask your healthcare provider. If you do not have a healthcare provider, contact RC VTAC (1-844-727-6404).**

For the most recent COVID-19 vaccine information, visit [www.rcdhu.com](http://www.rcdhu.com)

