

Your Second Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine



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Can I get a different COVID-19 vaccine for my second dose? Interchanging or "Mixing" Vaccines

- ✓ **Interchanging or "mixing" vaccines is a safe and effective option to gain strong protection from COVID-19 as quickly as possible.**
- ✓ The Province of Ontario, based on Canada's National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), has updated its [guidance](#) to allow for interchanging vaccines for first and second doses.
- ✓ Interchanging vaccines is not a new practice. Similar vaccines from different manufacturers are used when vaccine supply or public health programs change. Different vaccine products have been used to complete a vaccine series for influenza, hepatitis A, and others.

The best vaccine for your second dose is the first one available to you.

Receiving two doses of the vaccine is the best way to protect yourself from COVID-19 and variants of concern. It is important to be fully vaccinated as quickly as possible.

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 and Moderna have very similar effectiveness and side effects.
- It is not recommended to receive AstraZeneca vaccine as your second dose.

If you received AstraZeneca 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.

For the most recent COVID-19 vaccine information, visit www.rcdhu.com