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COVID-19 Vaccine: Update #26

Provincial Implementation of NACI Vaccine Interchangeability Statement Second Dose Options for Those Who Received AstraZeneca Vaccine

Attention: Physicians, Emergency Departments, Hospital CEOs, Hospital Laboratories, Infection Control Practitioners, Occupational Health Practitioners, Walk-In Clinics/Urgent Care Clinics, Nurse and Nurse Practitioners, EMS, Designated Officers, Midwives, Family Health Teams, Pharmacies, Central LHIN, NSM LHIN, Beausoleil First Nation, Moose Deer Point First Nation, Rama First Nation, Wahta First Nation, Long-term Care Homes, Retirement Homes, Hospices, Coroners, Funeral Directors, Dentists, Group Homes, Homes for Special Care, Optometrists, Corrections, Municipalities, Licensed Child Care Providers

Date: June 3, 2021

Second Dose Options for Those Who Received AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine

As per the recent [provincial announcement](#), in alignment with [National Advisory Committee on Immunization \(NACI\) Vaccine Interchangeability Statement](#), those who received their first dose of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine can choose to either receive a second dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine, or a mRNA (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) vaccine for their second dose. Both second dose options available to individuals who received their first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine are safe and provide strong protection against COVID-19 and will count as a completed series. These second dose options will be provided at the recommended 12-week interval for those who received AstraZeneca vaccine for their first dose.

Note that this is a change from the last Public Health Alert which indicated that those choosing to receive mRNA vaccine for their second dose would have to wait 16 weeks.

Effective June 4, 2021 people can receive their second dose at any provider that is currently offering the vaccine they are choosing which may include a local pharmacy or their primary care provider. The week of June 7, 2021, the provincial vaccine appointment booking system (PVAB) is to be updated to allow those who received AstraZeneca to be able to book a dose 2 only appt in the provincial system for one of our community clinics at the 12 week interval.

Second Doses for Those Who Received mRNA Vaccine

NACI's recent statement also recommended that the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines can be safely interchanged for first and second doses if the original mRNA vaccine is not readily available.

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Those who received a first dose of a mRNA vaccine should be offered the same mRNA vaccine for their second dose. If the same mRNA vaccine is not readily available, another mRNA vaccine can be offered instead to complete the vaccine series.

Appointment Booking Update

A large number of appointments are available in the PVAB locally until July 2, 2021 with a limited number of appointments available in July and beyond. We are awaiting our vaccine allocation for July, and as soon as that is received, we will add additional appointments in the system. In the meantime, if people are trying to book an appointment for July or August we would encourage them to check back in a couple of weeks.

How to Book or Change Your Second Dose Appointment

<p>Do not currently have a second dose appointment booked in either the PVAB or MS Bookings</p> <p>*MS Bookings is the system that SMDHU used for those immunized before March 17th to book their dose 2 appointment before the PVAB was updated to allow for this recently (email sent to them with link)</p>	<p>Book appointment online at https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/ or</p> <p>Call the Provincial Vaccine Booking Line at 1-833-943-3900</p>
<p>Those 80+ years of age with an existing second dose appointment in the PVAB at 16 weeks who are now eligible for an earlier interval</p>	<p>Book appointment online at https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/ or</p> <p>Call the Provincial Vaccine Booking Line at 1-833-943-3900</p>
<p>Have a second dose appointment in PVAB at 16 weeks but eligible for earlier interval:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highest priority HCW • Indigenous adult and their household members • Transplant recipients • Dialysis patients • Those with cancer receiving active treatment (chemotherapy, targeted therapies, immunotherapy), not including only hormonal or radiation therapy • Those who are taking anti-CD20 agent (e.g. rituximab, ocrelizumab, ofatumumab) 	<p>Call the Provincial Vaccine Booking Line at 1-833-943-3900 to change appointment</p>
<p>Need an appointment at a pharmacy</p>	<p>Find a local pharmacy and their booking information at https://covid-19.ontario.ca/vaccine-locations</p>

Information Missing from Client Records Sent via Health Report Manager (HRM)

We are aware that there was an issue with some of the HRM records sent through missing information. We have alerted the Ministry of this and they are investigating.

For immunization program information, support materials and forms refer to our website

www.smdhu.org/pcportal or call the Immunization program, Monday thru Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., at 705-721-7520 or toll free 1-877-721-7520 ext. 8806.

Additional COVID-19 Vaccine Information

For more information about the rollout of COVID-19 vaccine in our area, please refer to the SMDHU [COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunization](#) webpages.

For more information on the province's three-phased vaccine distribution implementation plan, please visit [COVID-19 vaccines for Ontario](#).

There are a number of COVID-19 resources and documents available through our Health Professional Portal at www.smdhu.org/hpportal as well as through [Public Health Ontario](#) and the [Government of Ontario](#).