

COVID-19 Update

March 18, 2021

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- Canadian government has announced that vaccines are available for Canadians followed by age groups
- There are 4 different types of vaccines. The names of the 4 vaccines that are available are:
- **AstraZeneca (currently is suspended pending investigation)**
- **Pfizer-BioNTech**
- **Moderna**
- **Johnson & Johnson (J&J) – Canadian company**

- As with other vaccines, common side effects include pain and tenderness at the injection site, headache, muscle pain, fever and chills
- The majority of allergic reactions reported during clinical trials were mild to moderate in severity, and resolved within a few days

- “The efficacy rate does not mean that following vaccination with a vaccine with 66 per cent efficacy, that you will have a 34 per cent chance of contracting COVID-19,” Sharma said.
- “It's not just about getting COVID-19, what's really important is whether any of the vaccines will prevent you from being hospitalized, or dying of COVID-19,” she said, noting that all the vaccines approved so far are effective at preventing severe illness or death.

Vaccines authorized by Health Canada as of Mar.5, 2021

Pfizer-BioNTech

Date Authorized:
December 9, 2020

Medicinal Ingredient:
mRNA

Age Restrictions:
Available for individuals
who are 16 years of age
and older

Number of Doses:
Two doses

Efficacy Percentage:
95 per cent effective in
preventing COVID-19 one
week after the second
dose

Moderna

Date Authorized:
December 23, 2020

Medicinal Ingredient:
mRNA

Age Restrictions:
Available for individuals
who are 18 years of age
and older

Number of Doses:
Two doses

Efficacy Percentage:
94.1 per cent effective in
preventing COVID-19 two
weeks after the second
dose

AstraZeneca

Date Authorized:
February 26, 2021

Medicinal Ingredient:
Adenovirus vector vaccine

Age Restrictions:
Available for individuals
who are 18 years of age
and older

Number of Doses:
Two doses

Efficacy Percentage:
62 per cent effective in
preventing symptomatic
COVID-19 disease
beginning two weeks after
the second dose, immunity
developing over time

Johnson & Johnson

Date Authorized:
March 5, 2021

Medicinal Ingredient:
Adenovirus vector vaccine

Age Restrictions:
Available for individuals
who are 18 years of age
and older

Number of Doses:
One dose

Efficacy Percentage:
66 per cent effective in
preventing symptomatic
COVID-19 disease
beginning two weeks after
the single dose, immunity
developing over time

- **First here are the basics:**
- As of March 5, Canada has four COVID-19 vaccines approved for use: the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, the Moderna vaccine, the AstraZeneca vaccine and the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.
- Doses of the two-dose Pfizer, Moderna and AstraZeneca vaccines have arrived in Canada, while the Johnson & Johnson vaccines aren't expected to land until later this spring. All three of the vaccines in use in Canada right now require two doses, while the Johnson & Johnson vaccine just takes one shot.
- The federal government has committed to having everyone vaccinated.

Now for the Q&A:

- When will be my turn to be vaccinated, and where?
- Right now, that largely depends on how old you are, your occupation, and your health. Until the end of March the focus is on vaccinating health-care workers and seniors, though as each province expands its vaccination efforts, additional groups are becoming eligible.
- Generally speaking, over the next few months, expect older Canadians to continue to be prioritized. After that, as the age scale moves down, expect more doses to be administered to people in higher-risk or essential jobs that have them on the front lines of the pandemic or often interacting with others.

- **WHERE DO I SIGN UP?**

- The Ontario government has launched a web portal (<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/>) to help with booking appointments for the general population. The portal went live at 8 a.m. on March 15.
- For those with a red and white health card, or anyone who is not comfortable using the online tool, the province has also launched a call centre.
- The Provincial Vaccine Information Line number is 1-888-999-6488.

- As part of their individual strategies, each local public health unit will outline where residents can sign up to receive their vaccine. Residents in the regions of Durham, Halton and Peel will not be able to use the province's web portal, as they have opted to stick with their own booking systems.
- Durham Region: Officials said an online booking system is available. <https://durhamvaccinebooking.ca/>
- **WHO IS NEXT IN LINE?**
- All local public health units to begin administering shots to people 80 years of age or older in the third week of March.

- In Phase 2, adults between the ages of 60 and 79 will be vaccinated in five-year increments, the province said. As well, those in high-risk congregate settings, individuals with high-risk chronic conditions and their caregivers, those who cannot work from home and members of at-risk populations will also be prioritized in this stage.

- **WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW BEFORE REGISTERING?**

- You will be asked to stay for 15 to 30 minutes after receiving the dose to monitor for any adverse events
- As with all other medications and vaccines, the COVID-19 shot can cause side effects – the most frequent adverse reactions were typically mild or moderate in intensity and resolved within a few days
- Some of the potential side effects include; pain at injection site, fatigue, headache, muscle or joint pain, chills, fever, swollen glands, diarrhea, nausea/vomiting, enlarged lymph nodes in your underarm

- **WHERE ARE THE VACCINES BEING ADMINISTERED?**

- All of Ontario's local public health units
- Currently, vaccines are being administered at clinics, hospitals, long-term care homes, retirement homes, and First Nations using mobile units. As of March 12, more than 300 pharmacies will offer the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine to residents between the age of 60 and 64.

Durham Region – Currently Available at these locations:

- **The Garnet B. Rickard Recreation Complex**
2440 Durham Regional Hwy. 2, Bowmanville L1C 3K2
- **Chestnut Hill Developments Recreation Complex Arena**
(entrance at back of building) - formerly known as Pickering Recreation Complex
1867 Valley Farm Road, Pickering L1V 6K7
- **Durham College and Ontario Tech University**
2000 Simcoe Street North, Oshawa L1G 0C5
- **McKinney Centre**
222 McKinney Drive, Whitby L1R 3M3 | [Map this location](#)

Durham Region – will be available at a later date at these locations:

- **Scugog Arena**

1655 Reach Street, Port Perry L9L 1P2

- **Uxbridge Arena**

291 Brock Street West, Uxbridge L9P 1G1

- **Audley Recreation Centre**

1955 Audley Road North, Ajax L1Z 0L2

For more info. visit:

<https://www.durham.ca/en/health-and-wellness/covid-19-vaccines.aspx#Municipal-vaccine-locations>

WHAT SHOULD I BRING TO MY APPOINTMENT?

- Ontario health card
- If you do not have an Ontario health care you are asked to bring another piece of photo identification that is government-issued, such as a driver's licence, passport, status card or other provincial health cards
- Face mask
- Immunization record to keep track of this vaccine and others
- Assistive devices as needed
- Reading glasses and/or hearing air if required
- Support person if required

- You should take your regular medication and eat meals as per usual
- Do not wear any scented products
- Wear a loose-fitting top so health-care provider can easily access your arm for the vaccination

Stay safe and healthy