

COVID-19 Immunization Update

For Health Care Providers in Oxford County, Elgin County,
and the City of St. Thomas



June 24, 2021

An Update from Dr. Joyce Lock, Medical Officer of Health

Please share with staff as appropriate.

What You Need to Know This Week

1. EARLY SECOND DOSE ELIGIBILITY

- Starting June 25 at 8 a.m., adults aged 18 and older who had their first dose of an mRNA vaccine on or before May 30 are eligible for an accelerated second dose.
- This does not apply to anyone younger than 18 at this time.
- Additionally, [the Province recently announced](#) anyone aged 18 and older will be eligible for a second dose at a minimum of 28 days after their first dose. It is expected this will take effect sometime during the week of June 28.
- Visit www.swpublichealth.ca/eligibility for a full list of who is currently eligible.

2. PREVENTING VACCINE WASTAGE

- On June 23, the Ministry of Health published [updated guidance on storage and handling](#).
- No shows or last-minute cancellations are significant factors to vaccine wastage.
- You are encouraged to proactively deliver this message to all individuals who have an upcoming appointment with you, such as through automated email appointment reminders.
- Key points:
 - Once a vial of vaccine is punctured, all doses must be used by a specific timeline before they are considered 'expired.'
 - Pharmacies, primary care providers, and public health clinics puncture vials based upon the number of vaccination appointments they expect each day.
 - If an individual does not show up to an appointment, the clinic team struggles to fill that appointment to avoid wasting the dose.
 - If you book an earlier appointment elsewhere, do not forget to inform the location where you had a second dose already booked. Call your pharmacy or primary care provider to cancel your existing appointment. For public health appointments, cancel at swpublichealth.ca/eligibility#CancelMyVaccine.

Southwestern Public Health
www.swpublichealth.ca
1-800-922-0096



3. MYOCARDITIS AND PERICARDITIS

- [NACI is currently reviewing reports](#) of myocarditis and pericarditis in youth who received a second dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.
- At this moment, this is a rare occurrence in Canada and internationally.
- There currently is no clear association between these conditions and mRNA COVID-19 vaccinations in Canada. This may change as more evidence emerges.

4. TRAVEL AFTER VACCINATION

- On June 21, the Public Health Agency of Canada outlined the first phase of Canada's approach to easing border measures for fully vaccinated travellers.
- Summary:
 - Phase 1 begins on July 5, 2021, at 11:59 p.m.
 - Fully-vaccinated travellers will be eligible to enter Canada under the current travel restrictions
 - Restricts entry to Canada from foreign nationals, unless they already meet an exemption set out in the border restrictions
 - Maintains pre- and on-arrival testing for all travellers
 - Monitors for variants of concern
 - Requirements for COVID-19-related information be submitted in advance of arrival.
 - More details: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/news/2021/06/backgrounder-phase-1-of-easing-border-measures-for-travellers-entering-canada.html>
- There is currently no global consensus on international travel requirements following vaccinations for COVID-19.

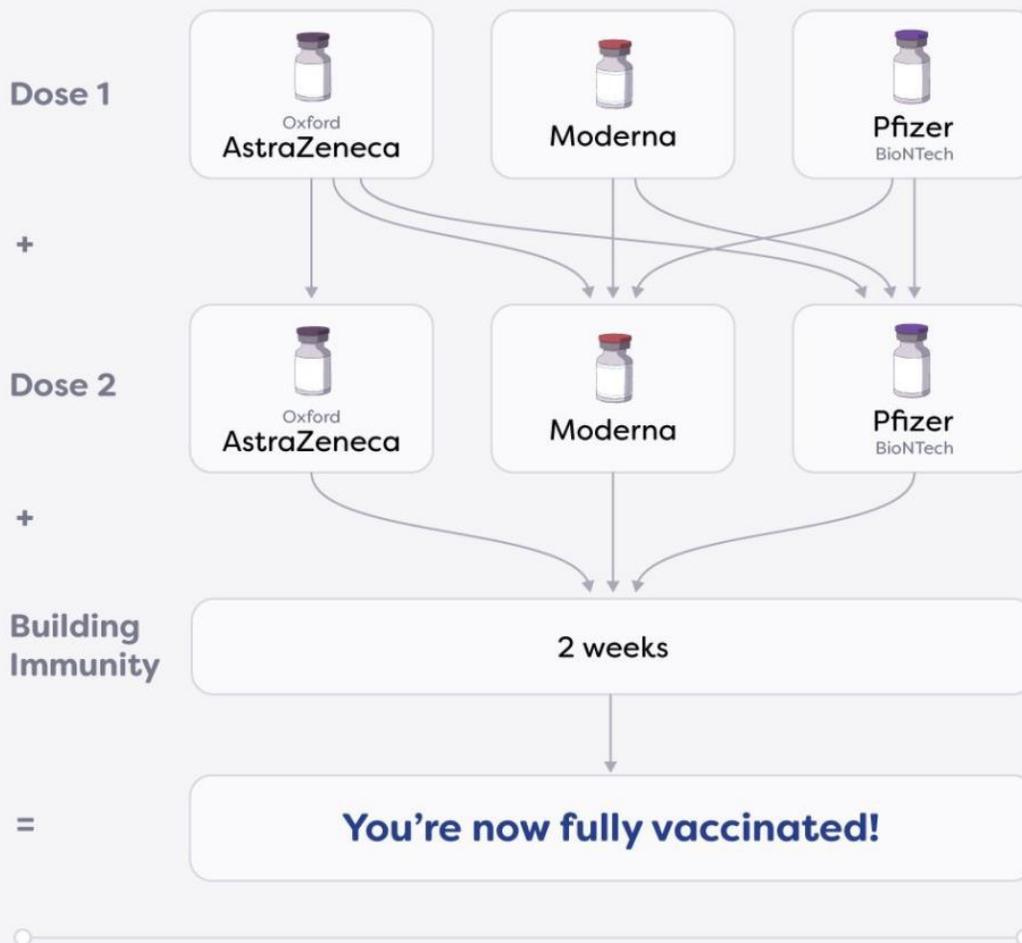
5. PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES AFTER VACCINATION

- Please remind individuals that whether they are partially or fully vaccinated, all individuals must still adhere to public health measures that are in-place until further notice from Ontario's Ministry of Health.
- This includes, but is not limited to, mask-wearing, hand hygiene, and continued avoidance of the Three Cs: close contacts, crowded places, close-in spaces.

6. MRNA INTERCHANGEABILITY

- The Ministry of Health has published [guidance for healthcare providers](#) regarding mixed mRNA COVID-19 vaccine schedules, and [guidance for heterologous](#) COVID-19 mRNA vaccine schedules.
- A patient-resource was published by the University of Waterloo to visually explain full immunization in Canada, see below graphic for details.

Are You Fully Vaccinated?



A note on travel/variants:

We are not sure if proof of vaccination will be needed to travel. Many countries are “mixing-and-matching” Covid-19 vaccines. It’s important to get a second dose of any Covid-19 vaccine. No matter when you get dose 2, you will have better, longer lasting protection. Two doses will protect you better from variants.

Public Health Agency of Canada. (PHAC). (2021 June 1). NACI Rapid Response: Interchangeability of Authorized COVID-19 vaccines. Available from: <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/naci-rapid-response-interchangeability-authorized-covid-19-vaccines-en.pdf>

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