

# QUICK FACTS

## Authorized COVID-19 Vaccines in Canada

### Pfizer BioNTech

### Moderna

### AstraZeneca

### Janssen (J&J)

When was it approved?

December 9, 2020

December 23, 2020

February 26, 2021

March 5, 2021

How many doses ordered in Canada?

Up to 76 million

44 million

22 million

Up to 36 million

How does it work?

mRNA vaccines teach cells how to make a protein that will trigger an immune response without using the live virus that causes COVID-19. Once triggered, our body then makes antibodies. These antibodies help us fight the infection if the real virus does enter our body in the future.

[Read more here](#)

See BioNTech.  
[Read more here](#)

Viral vector-based vaccines use a harmless virus, such as an as a delivery system. This "vector" virus is not the virus that causes COVID-19 but is among the viruses that can cause the common cold, and many have been used as delivery systems for other vector-based vaccines for decades.

[Read more here](#)

See AstraZeneca.  
[Read more here](#)

Who can use it?

12 years of age and older, including seniors 65+  
Women who are pregnant or breastfeeding if they are eligible and no contraindications exist.

18 years of age and older, including seniors 65+  
Women who are pregnant or breastfeeding if they are eligible and no contraindications exist.

18 years of age and older; including 55 and older. Women who are pregnant or breastfeeding if they are eligible and no contraindications exist.

18 years of age and older, including seniors 65+

If you have specific conditions, please review the provincial guidance [here](#)

What is the level of protection?

95% for those aged 16 and above and 100% for those 12 to 15 years old beginning 1 week after the second dose. Immunity develops over time. It takes about 2 weeks to develop significant protection against COVID-19. For the greatest protection, you will need the second dose.

94.1% beginning 2 weeks after the second dose. It takes about 2 weeks to develop significant protection against COVID-19. For the greatest protection, you will need the second dose.

62% beginning 2 weeks after the second dose. It takes about 2 weeks to develop significant protection against COVID-19. For the greatest protection, you will need the second dose.

66% beginning 2 weeks after vaccination. Immunity develops over time. You won't develop significant protection against COVID-19 for at least 2 weeks.

Does it protect against VOCs? (Variants of Concern)

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AstraZeneca vaccine has shown promising early results against variant B.1.1.7.

Preliminary evidence suggests the vaccine offers protection against the B.1.351 variant first identified in South Africa, and the P.2 variant first identified in Brazil. There is no data on the P.1 variant first identified in Brazil.

What are the side effects?

Pain at site of injection, body chills, feeling tired and feeling feverish.  
50 cases of anaphylaxis.  
4 cases of Bell's palsy.

Pain at site of injection, body chills, feeling tired and feeling feverish.  
21 cases of anaphylaxis.  
4 cases of Bell's palsy.

Pain at site of injection, body chills, feeling tired or feeling feverish. Four total serious side effects. At this time, there is no evidence that AstraZeneca is the cause of blood clots. The benefits of the AstraZeneca vaccine [outweigh any risk](#).

Pain at injection site, body chills, feeling tired or feverish. Very rarely, this vaccine has been associated with a rare form of serious blood clot. [Health Canada](#) confirms that the benefits still outweigh the risks for use.

What's in it?

[See here](#)

[See here](#)

[See here](#)

[See here](#)

Where can I get it?

Mass Immunization Clinics (St. Thomas and Woodstock)

Mass Immunization Clinic (Tillsonburg)

Participating pharmacies and primary care providers.

Unknown