



Sioux Lookout  
First Nations  
Health Authority

# CORONAVIRUS COVID-19

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccines

July 6, 2021

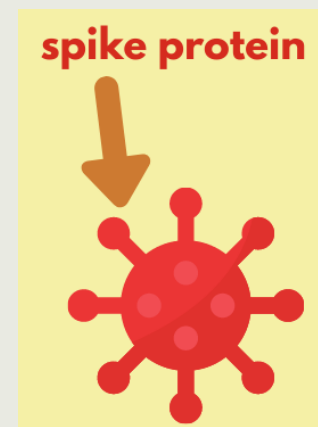
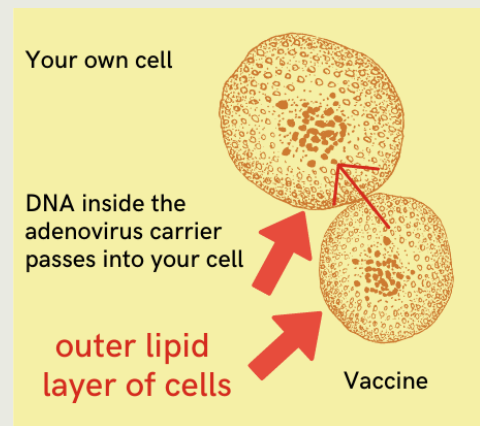
There are two companies who make AstraZeneca vaccines. The AstraZeneca company makes a vaccine that they call AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine. Another company from India partners with AstraZeneca to make COVISHIELD. Health Canada approved both vaccines on February 26, 2021.

#### How does it work?

The vaccine uses an adenovirus to carry important DNA info into your cells. The adenovirus is harmless to humans. It cannot make us sick. Once it has done its job, it falls apart.

Your cell splits the DNA info down into mRNA. What happens next is like what happens with the mRNA vaccines.

Your cell uses the info to start making spike proteins. The spike proteins are displayed on the cell's outer layer. This causes your immune system to have a strong response. It makes antibodies that should recognize, attack, and destroy the COVID-19 virus if you are infected.





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### Who can get the vaccine?

In Ontario, people 40 years and older can get this vaccine. The age of eligible people was raised from 18 years and older in April due to safety concerns around blood clots and low platelets.

On June 29, Health Canada stated that people who have *capillary leak syndrome* should not have this vaccine.

### What about the risk of blood clots?

There have been a few cases of people who have had life-threatening blood clots and low platelets after receiving this vaccine. This is a very rare side effect called vaccine-induced thrombocytopenia (VITT).

Seek help right away if you have any of these signs in the days after vaccination. Let the nurse know that you had AstraZeneca:

- short of breath
- chest pain
- leg swelling
- ongoing belly pain
- new or worsening headaches
- blurred vision
- bruises or tiny blood spots away from where you got your needle

### How is the vaccine given?

This vaccine is given by needle into the muscle of the upper arm. There are two doses. Each dose is 0.5ml. The length of time between each dose is from 28 days up to 4 months. In Ontario, the doses are 8 weeks apart.



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### How well does it work?

This vaccine is around 62% effective at preventing COVID-19. The best protection starts around 2 weeks after the second dose.

### How long will I be protected?

We do not know yet. The vaccine companies will continue to study the people who were in the clinical trials for at least one year. They will know more in time.

### What are the side effects?

The most common side effects are like those with other vaccines. They include pain at the injection site, body chills, tiredness, and fever. These side effects are not harmful and go away after a day or two.

There can be allergic reactions and severe side effects. This is very rare. Capillary Leak Syndrome is now listed as a possible side effect, though it is extremely rare. Talk with your community health team if you have a history of allergies or other health conditions.

### What about the second dose?

People who have had 2 doses already are considered to be fully vaccinated and have good protection against COVID-19. For people who have had only one dose, NACI recommends completing two doses **and that the second dose be an mRNA vaccine**, either Pfizer or Moderna. Ask your community health team about the timing for the second dose.



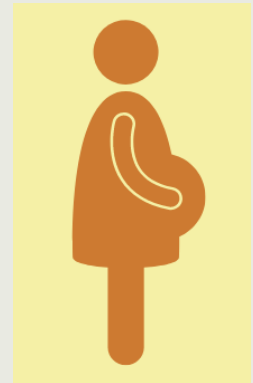
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### **If I am pregnant or breastfeeding, can I get *this* vaccine?**

Yes, you can. If you are pregnant or breastfeeding and under 40 years old, there are other vaccine options for you. Talk with your community health team.



### **I have allergies, what should I do?**

Talk with your community health team if you have a history of allergies. You may have to wait 30 minutes after you get your needle. They want to make sure you are feeling well before you leave the clinic.

### **I had COVID-19. Should I get the vaccine?**

Yes, even if you had COVID-19. If you are sick now, or have been in the past 3 months, talk with your community health team first.

### **Can I get COVID-19 from the vaccine?**

No, you cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine. There is no live virus in it.

### **Can I get COVID-19 after being vaccinated?**

Yes, you can. You do have a lower risk of getting sick and might have milder symptoms. You can still become infected and spread it to others, even if you have no signs or symptoms.



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**Do you have any questions?** Write to us at: [ACWinfo@slfhna.com](mailto:ACWinfo@slfhna.com)

To learn more about AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine and the recommendations from Health Canada and NACI, click on these links:

<https://healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/hc-sc/2021/75389a-eng.php>

<https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/1000329/ontario-accelerates-second-doses-of-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/covid19-industry/drugs-vaccines-treatments/vaccines/astrazeneca.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/recommendations-use-covid-19-vaccines/summary-statement-june-17-2021.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/rapid-response-recommended-use-astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine-younger-adults.html>