



Alberta COVID-19

Immunization Program

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June 7, 2021

Alberta

Alberta COVID-19 Immunization Program

- The overall goal of the Program is to minimize serious illness, overall deaths and societal disruption.
- Roll out of the vaccine program is done with partners including:
 - Alberta Health Services, physicians, pharmacists
 - First Nations, Metis Settlements, Metis Nation of Alberta, and Inuit communities and Indigenous Services Canada
- First doses of vaccines were rolled out in phases to ensure people most at risk received them first.
- Due to first dose success and increased vaccine supply, second doses are now being offered in stages.

Vaccine program progress as of June 6

- **3,057,662 doses administered**
 - 66.4% of those 12+ have received at least one dose
 - 11.8% have been fully immunized (2 doses)
 - 75% of Albertans over the age of 75 have received their 2nd dose

Age group	Percentage (1 st dose)
12-19	52%
20-29	53%
30-39	57%
40-49	65%
50-59	73%

Age group	Percentage (1 st dose)
60-69	80%
70-79	85%
80-89	87%
90+	87%

COVID-19 vaccines available in Alberta

All vaccines used available in Alberta are **safe** and **effective** in preventing serious illness and death from COVID-19.

	Moderna	Pfizer	AstraZeneca***
Reduces infection by...(after 1 st dose)	60-80%	60-80%	60-70%
Reduces hospitalizations by...(after 1 st dose)	80-85%	80-85%	80%
Recommended for ages	18+	12+	18+***

Vaccine Safety

- 99.995% of vaccines given have had no adverse events reported
- Where they were reported, most of these symptoms went away on their own after a few days, like swollen glands or a rash
- Some allergic reactions have been reported – these people will be assessed before a second dose is offered
- AstraZeneca has had a safety signal with blood clots in about 1/50,000 doses in Alberta – the program was adjusted in response
- A small number of reports of heart inflammation after mRNA vaccines have happened in the US and Israel. It is not clear if these are linked to the vaccine. In Alberta, we have had no cases.

Vaccine effectiveness- Alberta

(As of June 02, 2021)

Vaccine	Effectiveness after 1st dose	Effectiveness after 2 doses
Moderna	82% (80 to 84%)	93% (90 to 96%)
Pfizer	73% (72 to 74%)	90% (88 to 91%)
Variant of Concern	Effectiveness after 1st dose	Effectiveness after 2 doses
B.1.1.7 UK Variant	73% (72 to 75%)	91% (89 to 92%)
P1 Brazilian Variant	75% (68 to 81%)	89% (77 to 95%)

Mixing of vaccines for second doses

- National recommendations on mixing of COVID-19 vaccines for 2nd doses:
 - People who received a 1st dose of AZ vaccine may receive either AZ or an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) for their 2nd dose.
 - Pfizer and Moderna are considered interchangeable.
- This is not a new concept - different vaccine products have been used to complete a vaccine series for influenza, hepatitis A, and others.
- Alberta will have ***sufficient supply of both types of vaccine to provide 2nd doses.***
- Getting the same vaccine for the first and second dose or a mixed schedule are both considered valid options.

Current focus: increase vaccine uptake

- Making vaccines available and accessible through partnerships.
- Identifying and addressing barriers to vaccine uptake.
- Increasing people's confidence in the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines.
- Supporting access to accurate, evidence-based information.
- Continued engagement with diverse sectors such as businesses, industry and community based organizations.

Call to action

- Engage your networks
- Use creative ways to promote the benefits of immunization and encourage vaccine uptake.
- Share information. Resources are available at:
 - www.alberta.ca/covid19-vaccine.aspx or www.immunizealberta.ca/
- Identify and address barriers to vaccine uptake
 - Ensure awareness of three hours paid leave for appointments
 - Share information in other languages:
 - www.alberta.ca/covid-19-translated-resources.aspx
 - www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page17038.aspx

Employer's toolkit for vaccination

Go to:

- <https://open.alberta.ca/publications/employers-toolkit-for-vaccination>

Four resources are included:

- Employer Information
- Employers as Champions Supporting your employees pre- and post-immunization
- Employer Immunization Clinic Information
- Vaccine Hesitancy

COVID-19 vaccine posters for your business or workplace



**GET VACCINATED SO WE CAN
ALL GET BACK TO NORMAL.**

Alberta 

alberta.ca/vaccine

Looking ahead

- Vaccines are our best path forward to easing public health measures.
- Alberta has achieved the milestone of offering 1st doses of vaccine to all Albertans over the age of 12. Bookings for 2nd doses have started.
- Until most Albertans are protected, fully immunized people must still follow all public health measures.
- One change for those who have been immunized is quarantine adjustments – fully immunized people no longer need to be in quarantine post-exposure and those with a 1st dose have shortened quarantine requirements.

Questions and Discussion

