



Interchangeability of COVID-19 Vaccines

Please note the following recommendations regarding interchangeability of COVID-19 vaccines as per the recent [NACI Statement-Interchangeability of Authorized COVID-19 Vaccines](#) released on June 1, 2021.

- Based on information provided, a robust immune response is expected after receiving an authorized COVID-19 vaccine series using any authorized COVID-19 vaccine combination.
- Any eligible individual who has received two authorized COVID-19 vaccines using the acceptable intervals between doses are considered fully immunized for COVID-19.
- There is a slightly higher risk for experiencing side-effects when mixing mRNA and viral-vector vaccines. During clinical trials, no serious side effects were reported within 7 days after administration of the second dose.

mRNA Vaccines (Moderna or Pfizer)

Individuals who receive an mRNA vaccine (such as Moderna or Pfizer) for their first dose should be offered the same type of vaccine for their second dose. If the same type of vaccine is not available (or unknown) it is safe and effective to use another mRNA vaccine to complete the series.

Example 1:

Sarah got Moderna for dose #1 but only Pfizer was available in the community where she was scheduled to get dose #2. Since Pfizer is an mRNA type vaccine like Moderna, the public health nurse followed the NACI recommendations and offered Sarah Pfizer for her second dose. Sarah's COVID-19 Vaccine series is now complete.

Example 2:

Max had their COVID-19 Vaccine in March out-of-province and cannot remember the clinic they attended. Since Max does not have any documentation and the type of vaccine used for dose #1 is unknown, the public health nurse followed the NACI recommendations and offered Max the Moderna vaccine. Both Moderna and Pfizer are mRNA vaccines. Max's COVID-19 series is now complete.

Viral-Vector Vaccines (AstraZeneca or Covishield)

When the first dose is a viral-vector vaccine (such as AstraZeneca or Covishield) it is recommended that either AstraZeneca, Covishield or an mRNA vaccine (such as Moderna or Pfizer) be offered for the second dose.

Anyone who experienced a blood clot, or issues with blood clotting such as low platelet count following vaccination with AstraZeneca or Covishield should not receive AstraZeneca or Covishield for the second dose.

Example 3:

Thomas is a firefighter who got Covishield for dose #1 on February 24th. When Thomas logged into the [L-GH COVID-19 Vaccine Portal](#) he saw that AstraZeneca-type dose #2 appointments are now available in his community starting June 14th. Thomas read the NACI guidance and felt that AstraZeneca is a safe choice for him. Thomas booked his appointment and his COVID-19 Vaccine series will be complete.

Example 4:

Christine is an RCMP officer who had AstraZeneca for dose #1. Christine has read the information about AstraZeneca and spoken to her public health nurse but feels that AstraZeneca is not the right choice for her. Christine booked a Pfizer-type dose #2 appointment online and attended her appointment. Since Pfizer is an mRNA type vaccine, Christine's COVID-19 Vaccine series is now complete.