

Information for providing second doses of AstraZeneca to patients

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Thank you for agreeing to be part of the COVID-19 vaccine second dose campaign.

This afternoon Dr. Bonnie Henry, B.C.'s Provincial Health Officer, announced the Province will proceed with offering patients who received their first COVID-19 immunization with an AstraZeneca vaccine to have either a second dose of AstraZeneca OR one of the two mRNA vaccines currently available in B.C. – Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna. At this time B.C. pharmacies will continue to only administer the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine.

This information is to provide you with the information you need to begin the process of contacting patients who received their first dose of AstraZeneca vaccine at your pharmacy.

There is a limited supply of AstraZeneca, so it is vital that you keep the BC Pharmacy Association up to date on demand and bookings.

As soon as you run out of AstraZeneca doses, please let us know. We need to communicate this to the Province about demand. The supply is all subject to British Columbia obtaining more doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine.

What is the timeframe between first and second doses?

The recommended timeframe between first and second doses of AstraZeneca is 8 to 12 weeks. Patients should not be booked for an appointment earlier than 8-week from their first dose. Pharmacies should contact patients for 2nd dose appointments based on chronological order starting with their first patient vaccinated.

How many doses will we receive?

Due to limited supply of AstraZeneca in B.C. pharmacies will only receive a portion of what they administered as first doses. The government is working to secure additional supply.

When will we receive doses?

Pharmacies should receive their AstraZeneca vaccine supply early next week, depending on geographic location. AstraZeneca vaccine remaining from previous distributions can now be used for second doses. The majority of pharmacies will be receiving 100 to 200 doses.



British Columbia
Pharmacy Association

430 -1200 West 73rd Ave
Vancouver, BC, V6P 6G5
T: (604) 261-2092 F: (604) 261-2097

Full COVID-19 Immunization Guide
<https://www.bcpharmacy.ca/vaccine-guidance>

Want to receive COVID vaccine guidance by email?
[email communications@bcpharmacy.ca](mailto:communications@bcpharmacy.ca) to let us know

This message is being sent to all BC pharmacies that are administering COVID-19 vaccines.

What are the requirements of contacting patients for second doses?

Because all patients are required to be given a choice of either the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine or one of the mRNA vaccines – Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna – pharmacists must advise patients of this. The role of the pharmacist is to advise of this choice and to direct patients to information to make an informed choice.

A sample telephone or email script:

“Hello [Name]:

I’m calling from [pharmacy name] where you received your first dose of AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine on [date]. You will be eligible for your second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine on [date]. Patients in British Columbia have the choice to receive as a second dose either AstraZeneca or one of the mRNA vaccines – Pfizer or Moderna.

Here at the pharmacy, we are offering the AstraZeneca vaccine if you would like to book your second dose with us. However, if you would like to receive the mRNA vaccine, that can be done by booking with the Province and is offered through one of the mass immunization clinics.

If you would like more information to help you decide which vaccine is right for you, you can find that information on the BCCDC’s website here.

If you already know you would like to get the AstraZeneca vaccine as your second dose, I can book your appointment now. The timeframe between doses is 8 to 12 weeks.”

Can I provide first doses to patients wanting an AstraZeneca vaccine?

No. These doses are only reserved for patients who have already received their first dose of AstraZeneca.

What if a patient who has received an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna) wants to get an AstraZeneca vaccine through pharmacy?

The doses provided by pharmacy are only for those individuals who received their first dose of AstraZeneca. Dr. Henry has advised that the choice for second doses is for those individuals who received a first dose of AstraZeneca. The issue the Province faces is one of supply.



COVID-19 Vaccine Guidance

Full COVID-19 Immunization Guide for B.C. Pharmacies at
<https://www.bcpharmacy.ca/vaccine-guidance>
 Questions? Email communications@bcpharmacy.ca

When should I be contacting patients?

Patients will be advised of the following timeframes on both the Province of B.C.'s website and the BC Pharmacy Associations' website:

When you received your first dose at pharmacy	Your pharmacy will contact you
Between March 31 and April 13	Between June 7 and June 20
Between April 14 and April 27	Between June 21 and July 5
April 28 and after	July 6 and after

BCPhA Online Booking Tool Users

If you are using the BCPhA Online Booking Platform, please visit:

<https://www.bcpharmacy.ca/resource-centre/online-booking-tool/manual>

This will allow you to download the instructions on managing second dose appointments.



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