

July 27, 2021



## COVID – 19 UPDATE 36

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Due to the rapidly changing circumstances surrounding COVID-19 and its impact on workers, program support criteria are subject to change. Be sure to visit [www.unifor.org/covid19](http://www.unifor.org/covid19) to download updated versions of the fact sheets available to our members and their families.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/dose-2>

### Get your second vaccine dose



B.C. is accelerating second dose appointments for all eligible people because of increased vaccine supply.

English | [繁體中文](#) | [简体中文](#) | [Français](#) | [ਪੰਜਾਬੀ](#) | [فارسی](#) | [Tagalog](#) | [한국어](#) | [Español](#) | [عربی](#) | [Tiếng Việt](#) | [日本語](#) | [हिंदी](#)

Last updated: **July 9, 2021**

#### On this page:

- [Information for people who got the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine](#)
- [Information for people who got the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine](#)
- [I need help getting my second dose](#)

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### Information for people who got the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine

Get invited to book an appointment

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Approximately 8 weeks after your first dose, you will get an invitation by text, email or phone call to book your second dose appointment.

Like your first appointment, you'll select a location, date and time. You must have an appointment before you arrive at a clinic. You are encouraged to also bring your [immunization record card](#) or show your [online immunization record on Health Gateway](#).

### **I didn't get an invitation to book my second dose**

Booking invitations are sent from the Get Vaccinated provincial registration system. You must be registered with the system to get an invitation.

If you are missing your second dose booking invitation, **you must register with the system once**. This includes people who booked their first dose before April 6 through a health authority call centre:

- Seniors
- Elders
- Indigenous Peoples
- People who are clinically extremely vulnerable
- Health care workers

Letters are being mailed to these people to remind them to register.

### **mRNA vaccine availability and choice**

Both the Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccines are effectively interchangeable and are safe to mix.

If you can't remember what vaccine you got as your first dose or the date of your first dose appointment, you can check on your [immunization record card](#) or [online immunization record through Health Gateway](#).

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## **Information for people who got the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine**

You will be contacted to book your second dose appointment approximately 8 weeks after your first dose.

You can pick either the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD or an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) for your second dose. There are no safety concerns if you want to get the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine as your second dose.

Before making your decision, we recommend you review [information on second dose vaccine choice from the BCCDC](#).

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## **I want to get AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD for my second dose**

How you get your second dose of AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD is based on where you got your first dose.

[Expand All](#) | [Collapse All](#)

### [I got my first dose at a local pharmacy](#)

I didn't get my first dose at a local pharmacy

## **I want to get Pfizer or Moderna for my second dose**

If you want to get Pfizer or Moderna for your second dose, you must be [registered with the Get Vaccinated provincial registration system](#).

If you've already registered, wait for your booking invitation. If you get contacted by your pharmacy, decline their appointment and let them know you are getting the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine for your second dose.

### **At the clinic**

Bring photo ID and your booking confirmation to your appointment. You are encouraged to also bring your [immunization record card](#) or show your [online immunization record on Health Gateway](#).

At your appointment, you will get either Pfizer or Moderna.

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## **I need help getting my second dose**

If you have questions or aren't sure if you are registered with the Get Vaccinated provincial registration system, phone the call centre.

**Call: [1-833-838-2323](tel:1-833-838-2323) | Seven days a week, 7 am to 7 pm (PDT), translators are available**

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<https://links.bellmedia-ctv.mkt4301.com/servlet/MailView?ms=MzM1MzY4MTYS1&r=MzExNTI5NTE5OTU5S0&j=MTk4NDk4O DEwNwS2&mt=1&rt=0>



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July 23, 2021

# THE COVID-19 BRIEF

## CORONAVIRUS UPDATE



**Two doses of Pfizer, AstraZeneca shots effective against Delta variant, study finds**

<https://www.ctvnews.ca/health/coronavirus/two-doses-of-pfizer-astrazeneca-shots-effective-against-delta-variant-study-finds-1.5518249>

*Your resource for cutting through fear and misinformation. Check your email for trusted reporting and analysis to help differentiate between fact and fiction.*

Follow [the latest updates](#) and read [full coverage](#)

**The outbreak by the numbers** (as of 5:00 p.m. EDT Friday, July 23, 2021):

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- **Canada:** 1,425,552 cases | 4,394 active | 26,535 deceased
- **Globally:** 192,946,915 cases | 4,140,725 deceased

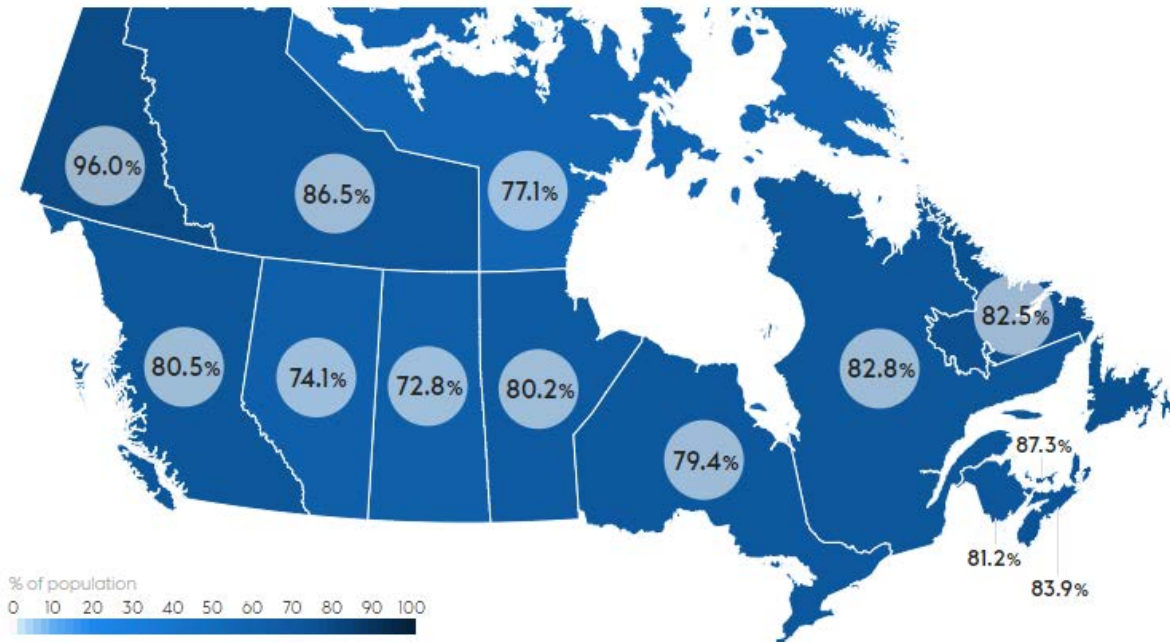
**Vaccine shipment forecasts** (as of 5:00 p.m. EDT Friday, July 23, 2021)

- Next **Pfizer-BioNTech** allocation: 3,671,460 doses between July 26 - Aug 1
- Next **Moderna** allocation: 4,086,180 doses between July 26 - Aug 1

**Vaccinations by the numbers** (as of 5:00 p.m. EDT Friday, July 23, 2021)

Map shows percentage of *eligible* population (12+) vaccinated with at least one dose; percentages table below are for *total* population.

**Eligible population (12+) in Canada: 79.78% first dose | 60.97% fully vaccinated**



- **World:** 3,787,026,990 doses given | 26.9% first dose | 13.5% fully vaccinated
- **Canada:** 70.1% have received at least one dose | 53.6% fully vaccinated
- **British Columbia:** 72.2% at least one dose | 52.1% fully vaccinated
- **Alberta:** 63.1% at least one dose | 51.6% fully vaccinated
- **Saskatchewan:** 63.8% at least one dose | 52.1% fully vaccinated
- **Manitoba:** 68.4% at least one dose | 55.5% fully vaccinated
- **Ontario:** 70.2% at least one dose | 56.8% fully vaccinated
- **Quebec:** 72.3% at least one dose | 50.2% fully vaccinated
- **New Brunswick:** 72% at least one dose | 55.6% fully vaccinated
- **Nova Scotia:** 74.6% at least one dose | 55.3% fully vaccinated
- **Prince Edward Island:** 76.9% at least one dose | 40.4% fully vaccinated
- **Newfoundland and Labrador:** 76.4% one dose | 43.4% fully vaccinated
- **Yukon:** 79% at least one dose | 68.8% fully vaccinated
- **Northwest Territories:** 72.6% at least one dose | 66.3% fully vaccinated
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Nunavut: 57.2% at least one dose | 47.8% fully vaccinated



## [Here's what's been happening in Canada](#)

**At the border.** Fully vaccinated Americans may be able to cross into Canada for non-essential reasons starting Aug. 9, but Canadians wishing to travel to the U.S. by car will have to wait a little longer. The U.S. [extended its land border restrictions](#) until Aug. 21, so those wanting to visit can only do so by air with a negative COVID-19 test. When asked why the U.S. was not aligned with Canada's policy changes, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said the two countries have taken different approaches since the beginning of the pandemic and Canada won't "[dictate](#)" border policies to the U.S. any more than Canada would accept it from the Americans.

**Cases among unvaccinated.** Overall infections may still be declining across the country, but experts caution Canadians [not to get complacent](#) about getting vaccinated. With 80 per cent of the eligible population having had at least one dose and more than 60 per cent [fully vaccinated](#), a slow-down in vaccinations is not surprising, but the rapid spread of variants hitting unprotected populations around the world demonstrates the urgency of getting the shot as soon as possible.

In **Alberta**, Dr. Deena Hinshaw, the province's chief medical officer of health says the majority of new COVID-19 cases are now among those who are unvaccinated or within two weeks of their first shot. In addition, [95 per cent of hospitalizations](#) and intensive care unit admissions and 91 per cent of deaths in the past month are also among the same group. **Quebec** Health Minister Christian Dubé made a similar comment this week that 95 per cent of those who tested positive last week and who were hospitalized were not adequately vaccinated. "Now we're in the [hard slog](#)," said one Alberta official, regarding the effort to convince the remaining unvaccinated population -- mostly those under 39 -- to get their shot.

With restrictions lifting across the country, many experts are expecting an uptick in cases, but just how serious it may become remains to be seen. **Quebec** reported [more than 100 new infections](#) earlier this week for the second time this month. **B.C.** marked its [biggest single-day increase](#) in more than a month this week, with 112 new cases on Friday. The rolling weekly average in B.C. had dipped as low as 35 cases per day, but is now at 53.

**Vaccine requirements.** Ontario's top public health official Dr. Kieran Moore cautioned that until about [90 per cent of eligible residents](#) have been fully vaccinated, the more transmissible Delta variant will continue to threaten the progress made so far. The provincial government has said that the final step for lifting nearly all remaining restrictions won't begin until at least 80 per cent of

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eligible residents have had at least one dose and 75 per cent have been fully vaccinated.

Already, some organizations and groups are making **vaccines a requirement**. The [Ontario Hockey League](#), for example, is requiring all community members including players, staff, coaches, officials and billet families to be fully vaccinated before the 2021/2022 season begins, while [Seneca College](#) became the first post-secondary institution in Canada to mandate vaccines for on-campus attendance. The University Health Network -- Canada's largest research hospital group -- will require proof of a negative COVID-19 test or a [minimum of one vaccine](#) dose for employees to be allowed to enter the hospital.

- [Ontario science table says vaccine certificates could be used to speed up reopening](#)

**A partisan divide?** Once lagging far behind the U.S. at the start of the year in vaccinations, Canada has now surpassed its neighbour. Dr. Anthony Fauci – director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases – said the partisan divide south of the border -- has been driving the growing gap between the [two country's vaccination rates](#).



## **The latest headlines...**

**In vaccines.** Two doses of Pfizer or AstraZeneca's COVID-19 vaccine are [nearly as effective](#) against the Delta variant as they are against the previously dominant Alpha variant, according to a study published this week in the New England Journal of Medicine.

- [European agency is first to clear Moderna vaccine for children ages 12 to 17](#)

**From around the world.** The **2020 Tokyo Olympic Games** [officially opened](#) on Friday, with worries about the pandemic casting a shadow over the entire event. The host city was reporting some [2,000 new cases a day](#) this week -- a six-month high -- while organizers said cancelling the Games was [never an option](#). A Chilean taekwondo athlete and a Dutch skateboarder are the [latest Olympians](#) to test positive for COVID-19. It is a crushing blow for athletes given quarantine rules will bar many of them from competition in time.

- [For complete coverage: Click for all the news from the Tokyo Olympics](#)

Most regions around the world now lag Canada in vaccinations. With some countries not even cracking the one percent mark for a first dose, the contrast is stark. The Associated Press took a

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deeper look inside the [cutthroat race](#) to secure vaccination doses around the world and also [compared our efforts](#) with **Zimbabwe's** to capture the global vaccine disparity and inequity.

Muslims across **Indonesia** [marked a grim Eid al-Adha](#) festival again this week as the country -- Asia's COVID-19 hot spot -- struggles to cope with a devastating new wave of coronavirus cases. **Iran** too, broke its record this week for [daily new infections](#). **New Zealand** suspended its quarantine-free [travel bubble](#) with **Australia** for at least eight weeks due to a growing cluster in Sydney.

- [More than two-thirds of India may have COVID-19 antibodies, blood survey shows](#)

In the **United States**, rising cases in every state are fueling worries about what lies ahead, particularly with millions of Americans still unvaccinated and the Delta variant spreading rapidly. Nearly all coronavirus deaths are now [among those who are unvaccinated](#), despite widespread vaccine availability, according to the U.S. surgeon general. Meanwhile, U.S. President Joe Biden said this week that children under the age of 12 could be eligible to receive a vaccine "soon" and that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will likely [issue guidance](#) recommending that children under the age of 12 wear masks in schools.

- [Cuba, gripped by unrest, battles highest COVID caseload in the Americas](#)

While some countries are taking a cautious approach to rising cases, the **U.K.** remains on track to go a [different route](#). It recorded more than [50,000 new cases](#) a week ago, and the government's top medical adviser warned that hospitalizations could hit "quite scary" levels within weeks. Even so, giddy revellers rushed onto dancefloors this week when England's nightclubs reopened as the country [lifted most remaining pandemic restrictions](#), including masks, physical distancing, gathering limits. The government has also decided [not to inoculate](#) most children and teenagers under 18 until more data becomes available.

## [How it affects you](#)

Without clear directive from governments, businesses have to decide whether to make vaccines mandatory for employees and patrons, a decision they say leaves them [vulnerable to attacks](#) from anti-vaxxers. Earlier this week, [one local initiative](#), Safe To Do, meant to provide a one-stop list for businesses in Ontario to share their staff's vaccination status and policies, said it received so much hate and threats that it decided to [shut down the project](#).

To help navigate the divisive discussion, Ontario's science table recommended the [use of vaccine certificates](#), similar to those already in use in Europe to easily prove one's vaccination status.

Speaking of businesses, [a new report](#) has found that many Canadians are still uncertain of what to expect regarding their workplace environment following the COVID-19 pandemic, contributing to a decline in their mental health.

I will leave you with a more upbeat story about Canadians who are finally [reuniting with loved ones](#) this summer and the relief that comes with seeing "a light at the end of the tunnel".

Thank you for reading,  
*Solarina Ho, CTVNews.ca writer*

Have feedback about the newsletter? Send [your comments here](#).



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For more news on the coronavirus in Canada:

- [Vaccine tracker: How many people have received shots?](#)
- [Variant tracker: What are the strains and where are they?](#)
- [LIVE UPDATES: What's the latest in Canada and around the world today](#)
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**Unifor's website is constantly being updated as new information is provided. Unifor has many websites to direct you to for assistance.**

**Resources:**

Unifor COVID-19 Information and Resources: <https://www.unifor.org/covid19>

Government of Canada Outbreak Update: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection.html>

Government of Canada Income Supports for Workers/Individuals:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html>

**Please also check the websites of your respective provinces for any additional provincial supports or resources that may be available to you.**

BCCDC website for Health info about COVID-19: [www.bccdc.ca](http://www.bccdc.ca)

British Columbia Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) website: <http://covid-19.bccdc.ca/>

**Health Issues: Dial 811 and follow your Provincial Protocols**

**Mental Health Issues: Dial 211 or access your EAP benefits:**

**Other useful websites with information**

**Federal Government Financial Support Resources:**

Government of Canada COVID-19 Financial Assistance for Canadians Outside of Canada: <https://travel.gc.ca/assistance/emergency-info/financial-assistance/covid-19-financial-help>

Government of Canada Economic Plan & How to Apply for Support: <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-support-for-canadians-and-businesses.html>

COVID - 19 Employment and Social Development Canada Information Guide: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/notices/coronavirus.html>

Canada Revenue Agency COVID-19: <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/covid-19-employee-info.html>

**Provincial Government Financial Support Resources:**

BC Preparedness Response: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/covid-19->

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[provincial-support](#)

Income Assistance: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/income-assistance>

Income Assistance Offices in the Lower Mainland: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/income-assistance/access-services#lowermainland>

**Health & Preparation Resources:**

COVID-19: Being prepared: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/being-prepared.html>

Government of Canada Symptoms & Treatments: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/symptoms.html>

BC COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment

Tool: <https://covid19.thrive.health/?fbclid=IwAR1NzQXV3eUgFa5bSimQ2wiRpXVVMZc1LPbpgp5fUNIDFIK1Sc7yjhcc4aB>

Health Link BC & 811: <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/services-and-resources/about-8-1-1>

**Other Useful Links:**

World Health Organization Myth Busters: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public/myth-busters>

World Health Organization Public Advice: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public>  
Government of Canada, Community-based Measures: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/public-health-measures-mitigate-covid-19.html>

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**If you have any questions, please contact your Local Union Representative.**

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**Follow phone directory to get to your Local Rep and if not available leave a message you will get a call back.**

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