

COVID-19 Vaccine Information

Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine (*mRNA-1273 SARS-CoV-2 vaccine*)

Please read this information sheet carefully and ensure all your questions have been answered by a health-care provider before receiving the vaccine.

The Moderna vaccine was authorized for use by Health Canada under an [Interim Order](#) on December 23, 2020. An Interim Order allows more rapid authorization of the vaccine to respond to a public health emergency, while following all requirements to ensure the health and safety of Canadians.

What is COVID-19?

- COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by a new coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2). COVID-19 was recognized for the first time in December 2019 and has since spread around the world, causing a global pandemic. The virus that causes COVID-19 is mainly passed from an infected person to others when the infected person coughs, sneezes, sings, talks or breathes. It is important to note that infected people can spread the infection even if they have no symptoms.
- [Symptoms of COVID-19](#) can include cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, tiredness and loss of smell or taste. Some people infected with the virus have no symptoms at all, while others have symptoms that range from mild to severe.
- [Of people diagnosed with COVID-19 in Canada](#), about 1 in 13 require hospitalization, and about 3 out of every 100 die. Even people with mild symptoms may feel unwell for a long time after a COVID-19 infection.
- In a large study where people were given 2 doses of the vaccine, the vaccine was shown to work very well at preventing people from becoming sick with COVID-19. The immunized group of people was much less likely (94.1% less likely) to become sick with COVID-19 in the weeks after receiving the second vaccination compared to the group that did not receive the vaccine.

Who can and cannot receive the COVID-19 vaccine at this time?

- If you have any [symptoms that could be due to COVID-19](#), you should not go out to get vaccinated because you could spread the infection to others. Talk with your health-care provider, or call 811 about your symptoms and getting a COVID-19 test. Your health-care provider will advise you if and when you are able to receive the vaccine.

See the table on the next 2 pages for information about who can and who should not receive the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

How does the Moderna vaccine protect against COVID-19?

- The vaccine causes our body to produce protection (such as antibodies) to help keep us from becoming sick if we are exposed to the COVID-19 virus. The vaccine uses a new method called messenger RNA (mRNA) to help our body protect itself from the virus.

	Column 1 CAN RECEIVE People in Column 1 can receive the COVID-19 vaccine, unless they are also in Column 2 or 3	Column 2 MAY BE OFFERED WITH INFORMED DISCUSSION People in Column 2 may be offered the vaccine if the benefits outweigh the risks. Those who are at high risk of exposure to COVID-19 infection and/or of developing severe disease should discuss these risks with their health-care provider to make a decision about vaccination.	Column 3 SHOULD NOT RECEIVE The vaccine should not be received by people in Column 3
Age	18 years of age and older.		17 years of age and younger.
Feeling unwell with symptoms that could be COVID-19			You should not be vaccinated if you have any symptoms that could be due to COVID-19 so that you do not spread infection to others.
Have or had a COVID-19 infection	You can be vaccinated if you are no longer infectious and are feeling better from a COVID-19 infection.		You should not be vaccinated while infectious or if you still feel unwell from a recent COVID-19 infection, so that you do not spread infection to others.
Pregnancy		Currently pregnant or planning to become pregnant before receiving both doses of COVID-19 vaccine.	
Breastfeeding		Currently breastfeeding.	
Allergy to polyethylene glycol (PEG)* Talk with your health-care provider if you are known to be allergic to polyethylene glycol or have had an allergic reaction from an unknown cause. See below for more details.			If you have been told you are allergic to polyethylene glycol (PEG)* or have had an allergic reaction from an unknown cause, you should not be vaccinated until it is determined to be safe by an allergist or other health-care provider.

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You had a severe reaction to a previous dose of COVID-19 vaccine, including an allergic reaction			If you had a serious or allergic reaction to a previous dose of COVID-19 vaccine, you should not be vaccinated until it is determined to be safe by an allergist or other health-care provider.
You are immunocompromised or have an autoimmune condition Talk with the health-care provider if you are unsure about your medical conditions		Problems with your immune system from disease or treatment. Autoimmune conditions.	
You received another vaccine in the past 14 days (not a COVID-19 vaccine)			If you received another vaccine (not a COVID-19 vaccine) in the past 14 days, it is best to wait 2 weeks from that last vaccine to receive your COVID-19 vaccine.

In addition to the information in Table 1, tell the health-care provider if:

- **You have fainted or felt faint after receiving past vaccines or medical procedures.**
Your health-care provider may recommend that you receive the vaccine lying down to prevent fainting.
- **You have a bleeding disorder or are taking medication that could affect blood clotting.**
This information will help the health-care provider prevent bleeding or bruising from the needle.

* **Polyethylene glycol (PEG)** can rarely cause allergic reactions and is found in products such as medications, bowel preparation products for colonoscopy, laxatives, cough syrups, cosmetics, skin creams, medical products used on the skin and during operations, toothpaste, contact lenses and contact lens solution. PEG also can be found in foods or drinks, but is not known to cause allergic reactions from foods or drinks.

How is the vaccine administered?

The vaccine is given as a needle in the upper arm. You will need two doses, usually given 28 days apart and up to 42 days apart in limited circumstances.

What are the risks of the vaccine?

In a large study, half of the people who received the Moderna vaccine were monitored for at least two months and no serious side effects have been found to date. People who have received the vaccine in studies continue to be monitored for any longer-term side effects.

Side effects can develop within a day or two after receiving the vaccine. Although these side effects are not serious to your health, they may make you feel unwell for about one to three days; they will go away on their own. These types of side effects are expected and can indicate the vaccine is working to produce protection.

In the study, side effects included one or more of the following:

- pain, redness or swelling where the needle was given
- tiredness
- headache
- muscle pain
- joint pain
- nausea / vomiting
- chills
- fever
- enlarged lymph nodes (swollen glands) in the underarm

Allergic reactions can rarely occur after receiving a vaccine. Symptoms of an allergic reaction include hives (bumps on the skin that are often very itchy), swelling of your face, tongue or throat, or difficulty breathing. The clinic staff are prepared to manage an allergic reaction should it occur. Seek immediate medical care if you develop any of these symptoms.

It is important to note that you cannot get COVID-19 infection from the vaccine.

What measures have been put in place to safely provide immunizations during COVID-19?

Health-care providers are being very careful to prevent the spread of COVID-19 when offering immunizations. Examples of extra safety measures include the following:

- You will be asked about [any COVID-19 symptoms](#) when you arrive at the clinic. People with symptoms of COVID-19 should not attend the clinic.
- You will be asked to wear a mask while at the clinic, as well as to clean your hands, and to stay at least 2 metres (6 feet) from others (except those you live with).
- The staff will also be wearing personal protective equipment and will be cleaning their hands before and after each client.
- Other measures may also be put in place in clinics. Be sure to read and follow any signs or instructions provided.

What should I do before coming to the clinic?

- Wear a short-sleeve shirt or top with sleeves that are easy to roll up.
- To prevent feeling faint while being vaccinated, have something to eat before coming to the clinic.
- Bring your mask.
- Bring any identification required by the clinic, such as your health card.
- Bring your immunization record with you and/or download the [CANImmunize app](#) to keep track of this and other vaccines.
- You will be provided with a paper COVID-19 Immunization Record.

What should I do after receiving the vaccine?

You will be asked to **wait at least 15 minutes** after receiving the vaccine to be sure you are feeling well. Longer waiting times of 30 minutes may be recommended if there is concern about a possible vaccine allergy. You may be asked by the health-care provider to wait in the clinic, or if an adult is with you and you have a warm, dry place to wait

(such as in your vehicle), you may be asked to wait outside of the clinic. Inform a health-care provider right away if you feel unwell while waiting. You should not leave the clinic (or clinic parking lot) for at least 15 to 30 minutes after receiving your vaccine, based on the recommendation of the health-care provider.

Once you leave the clinic, call 9-1-1 right away if you develop any serious symptoms or symptoms of an allergic reaction such as: hives (bumps on the skin that are often very itchy); swelling of your face, tongue or throat; or difficulty breathing. Inform your health-care provider of any concerning side effects after receiving the vaccine.

Continue to follow Yukon’s “Safe 6 +1” recommendations to prevent spread of COVID-19, which may include wearing a mask, staying at least two metres from others and limiting and avoiding contact with others outside your household.

Do not receive any other vaccines (except for your second COVID-19 vaccine) until you have received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccine and at least 28 days have passed after the second dose (unless considered necessary by your health-care provider).

If you are planning to become pregnant, delay this until at least 28 days have passed after the second dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

Keep your COVID-19 immunization record in a safe place.

When should I return for my second dose?

Please return for your second dose of the Moderna vaccine in 1 month or when advised to by your immunizer. Returning for your second dose will ensure the vaccine is most effective and you will not be considered fully vaccinated until the second dose is administered. You may be asked to book an appointment to receive the second dose.

Bring your COVID-19 Immunization Record with you when you come for your second dose. This will be given to you when you receive your first dose. It is your personal COVID vaccine immunization record.

