

# When it's Best to Get the First COVID-19 Vaccine Available to You

## It's best to get vaccinated as soon as possible:

- ✓ When there is a lot of virus in your community
- ✓ When there are “variants of concern” in your community
- ✓ If you or someone in your home must go out to work every day
- ✓ If you are the main caregiver for someone else
- ✓ If you have a chronic disease such as diabetes, heart disease, asthma
- ✓ If you have a weakened immune system
- ✓ If you are pregnant
- ✓ If you have a history of blood clots (1 in 100 COVID-19 cases has a blood clot)

## It's best to wait to get vaccinated:

- ✓ If you have a serious infection (ex. fever), wait until you feel better
- ✓ If you currently have COVID-19, wait 2 weeks
- ✓ If you have just received a vaccine (ex. shingles vaccine), wait 2 weeks
- ✓ If you have an allergy to a specific ingredient in one of the vaccines, talk to your doctor or pharmacist to find out which vaccine you can get
- ✓ If you have had heparin-induced thrombocytopenia (HIT) before, talk to your doctor or pharmacist to find out which vaccine you can get

*In a pandemic, waiting for a different vaccine means **choosing to be unprotected** for longer.*

## How long does it take for a COVID-19 vaccine to work?



**After dose 1\*** \*of a 2-dose vaccine  
It can take up to **4 weeks** to get good protection



**After dose 2**  
It can take another **1-2 weeks** to get full protection



All 4 approved vaccines in Canada protect against severe illness, hospitalization, and death. Waiting days or weeks delays your protection.

# How COVID-19 Vaccines Compare



All four vaccines protect against hospitalization and death from COVID-19.

	AstraZeneca	Johnson & Johnson	Pfizer	Moderna
Eligible age	18+*	18+*	12+	18+
Number of doses	2	1	2	2
<b>Those fully vaccinated who are still at risk of hospitalization and death from COVID-19</b>	<b>0 in 100<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>0 in 100<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>0 in 100<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>0 in 100<sup>4</sup></b>
Those fully vaccinated who are still at risk of mild to moderate COVID-19	38 in 100 <sup>1</sup>	34 in 100 <sup>2</sup>	5 in 100 <sup>3</sup>	5 in 100 <sup>4</sup>
Offers some protection 4 - 6 weeks after first dose	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Rare but serious side effects (more info page 3)	1 to 2 in 100,000 risk of vaccine induced blood clot	1 in 500,000 risk of vaccine induced blood clot	None as of May 5, 2021	None as of May 5, 2021

\*Health Canada has authorized use of AstraZeneca for those 18+, while some provinces have set the eligible age to 40+.

†As of April 14, 2021, Health Canada states that the benefits of the vaccine in protecting against COVID-19 outweigh its potential risks.

<sup>1</sup>Voysey et al. Lancet 2021; 397 (10269): 99-111.

<sup>2</sup><https://www.fda.gov/advisory-committees/advisory-committee-calendar/vaccines-and-related-biological-products-advisory-committee-december-10-2020-meeting-announcement>

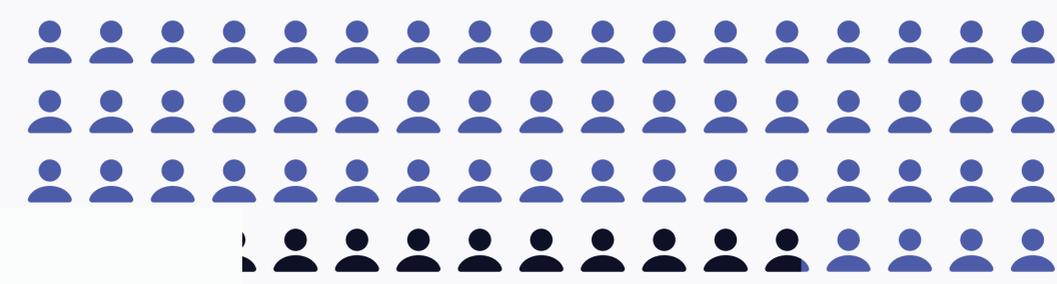
<sup>3</sup>Polack et al. N Engl J Med. 2020; 383: 2603-2615

<sup>4</sup>Baden et al. N Engl J Med. 2021; 384: 403-416

<sup>†</sup><https://healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/hc-sc/2021/75389a-eng.php>

# Getting an AstraZeneca or Johnson & Johnson Vaccine when COVID-19 Risk is High

Based on Ontario data over the previous 14 days as of April 27, 2021\*

Potential Benefits	Age	Potential Harms <sup>†</sup>
	20-29	
	30-39	
	40-49	
	50-59	
	60-69	
	70-79	
	80+	

 = 1 COVID-19 hospitalization prevented (per 100,000)  
 = 1 COVID-19 related death prevented (per 100,000)

 = 1 vaccine-related blood clot (per 100,000)

<sup>†</sup>these are estimates and subject to change as we learn more about vaccine-related blood clots

\*<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/data-and-analysis/infectious-disease/covid-19-data-surveillance/covid-19-data-tool?tab=summary>