

COVID-19 Vaccines: Building Confidence in Moderna and NACI Recommendations on Second Doses

Update to York Region health care providers as of June 23, 2021

Building Patient Confidence about Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine

As health care providers, you are a trusted voice for York Region residents when it comes to COVID-19 vaccines. It is important to build confidence in conversations with patients related to the Moderna vaccine.

To support this endeavour, the [Centre for Effective Practice](#) has released a new [resource for building vaccine confidence in the Moderna](#) vaccine that provides helpful talking tips and supporting information using the following **PrOTCT** framework:

- **Presume** they will get the vaccine with positive statements
- **Offer** to share your knowledge about the facts and your experience with having had the vaccine
- **Tailor** the recommendation to their specific health concerns
- Address specific **C**oncerns
- Talk through a specific plan for where and when to get the vaccine

It is important to inform patients that there is no significant difference between the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA vaccines and both have very similar side-effect profiles. All approved vaccines are highly effective against COVID-19 infection, hospitalization, and death.

The [Ontario Medical Association](#) (OMA) has provided more information and resources about COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy and building confidence.

National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) Updates Recommendations on the Second Dose of COVID-19 Vaccines

On June 17, 2021, [NACI updated its recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccines](#) outlining that an mRNA vaccine (Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech) is now preferred as the second dose for individuals who received a first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine, based on emerging evidence of a potentially better immune response from a mixed COVID-19 vaccine two dose schedule and the risk of developing vaccine-induced thrombotic thrombocytopenia (VITT) after receiving a second dose of AstraZeneca.

The Province of Ontario indicates that the AstraZeneca vaccine continues to be currently available for those who wish to receive it as a second dose, with informed consent, through select pharmacies and participating primary care physicians. They note that if a patient received AstraZeneca vaccine as their first dose, they could safely take either AstraZeneca, Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine as their second dose for strong protection.

In addition, [based on NACI recommendations](#), individuals should be offered the same mRNA vaccine product as their first dose if supplies are readily available. Where supplies are not available, another mRNA COVID-19 vaccine is considered interchangeable and should be used to complete the series.

It is important that patients are maximizing protection against COVID-19 and the Delta variant, by getting vaccinated as soon as they can and to book their second dose as soon as they are eligible.



Contact York Region Public Health

If you have questions about COVID-19 or COVID-19 vaccines, call the York Region Public Health phone line for health care professionals at 1-877-464-9675 ext. 77280 (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday) or visit york.ca/healthprofessionals.

Please encourage your patients to visit york.ca/COVID19Vaccine regularly for updated information.