



Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) vaccines: Overview

COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. Free vaccines will be available to everyone who lives in Canada over the course of 2021. Until extensive immunization is achieved, public health measures will continue to be essential to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in Canada and save lives.

Authorized COVID-19 vaccines in Canada

Canada's independent authorization process is recognized around the world for its high standards and rigorous review. The approval of the vaccine is supported by evidence that it is safe, effective and of good quality.

List of authorized vaccines

- [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine](#) approved on December 9, 2020
- [Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine](#) approved on December 23, 2020

Both Vaccines require 2 shots. The first initial vaccine and then a booster at the prescribed time the government health officials will provide you with when the time comes.

About the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine

The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 mRNA vaccine (Tozinameran or BNT162b2) is used to prevent COVID-19. This disease is caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The vaccine is approved for people who are 16 years of age and older. Its safety and effectiveness in people younger than 16 years of age have not yet been established. The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is manufactured by Pfizer Canada ULC and BioNTech Manufacturing GmbH. Health Canada authorized this vaccine with conditions on December 9, 2020, under the [Interim Order Respecting the Importation, Sale and Advertising of Drugs for Use in Relation to COVID-19](#). Find detailed technical information about the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine, such as the product monograph and our regulatory decision summary, in the [COVID-19 vaccines and treatments regulatory portal](#).

[Ingredients and more info about Pfizer vaccine](#)

About the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine

The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine (mRNA-1273) is used to prevent COVID-19. This disease is caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). The vaccine is approved for people who are 18 years of age and older. Its safety and effectiveness in people younger than 18 years of age have not yet been established. The Moderna COVID-19 mRNA vaccine is manufactured by Moderna Therapeutics Inc. Health Canada authorized this vaccine with conditions on December 23, 2020, under the [Interim Order Respecting the Importation, Sale and Advertising of Drugs for Use in Relation to COVID-19](#).

Find detailed technical information about the Moderna vaccine, such as the product monograph and our regulatory decision summary, in the [COVID-19 vaccines and treatments regulatory portal](#).

[Ingredients and more info about Moderna vaccine](#)

Monitoring COVID-19 vaccine safety and effectiveness

Health Canada monitors the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have increased:

- our monitoring and assessment activities of emerging safety issues, and
- collaboration and information-sharing with our partners here in Canada and around the world, such as the World Health Organization

Securing vaccines for everyone who lives in Canada

We're working with provinces, territories, First Nations, Inuit and Métis leaders to make sure doses are available to everyone who lives in Canada as soon as possible. We are using established vaccination programs that are in place across the country for a wide range of illnesses.

- [Canada's vaccine and supply agreements](#)
- [Rollout details](#)

[MORE COVID-19 VACCINE INFO FROM GOVERNMENT OF CANADA PUBLIC HEALTH](#)

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health.html>

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Overview

Vaccination is expected to be an effective way to prevent the spread and reduce the impact of COVID-19. **Only vaccines that Health Canada determines to be safe and effective will be approved for use in Canada and available in Ontario.**

This means the vaccines:

- were tested on a large number of people through extensive clinical trials
- have met all the requirements for approval, including safety
- will be monitored for any adverse reactions that may occur after vaccination and appropriate measures will be taken

Both vaccines require two doses for your body to develop adequate immunity. After two doses, they are expected to be 94-95% effective, which will lower how much of the virus can spread in the population, help build herd immunity and stop the pandemic. They were both manufactured in Belgium.

[Learn more about the vaccines from Health Canada's website.](#)

Vaccine development

Creating a new vaccine typically takes years. However, the progress on COVID-19 vaccines is happening quickly for many reasons, including:

- being informed by decades of research on other strains of coronavirus prior to COVID-19, such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Sars-CoV (SARS)
- advances in science and technology
- international collaboration among scientists, health professionals, researchers, industry and governments
- increased dedicated funding

Before any vaccines are available in Ontario, they:

- undergo rigorous clinical trials to ensure they are safe and effective
- are evaluated and authorized for use by Health Canada, using rigorous standards

Ontario's plan to make sure vaccines remain safe for Ontarians includes:

- securely and safely transporting and storing vaccines at required conditions and temperatures
- establishing safe clinic spaces to give people immunizations, including providing the required training to those administering vaccines
- monitoring for any [adverse reactions or side effects](#) that may occur after vaccination and taking appropriate measures, including working with the federal government and other provinces and territories

Health Canada will continue to monitor all authorized vaccines to ensure they continue to be safe and effective.

[MORE COVID-19 VACCINE INFO FROM GOVERNMENT OF ONTARIO GOVERNMENT](#)

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccine-safety>



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