



FAQ: ACCELERATED 2ND DOSES JUNE 21 & 23

WHAT IS CHANGING?

Beginning Monday, June 21, the province will begin booking accelerated second doses for ALL Ontarians who received their first dose of a mRNA vaccine on or before May 9.

Delta Regions: Beginning Wednesday, June 23, the province will begin booking accelerated second doses for those who received their first dose of a mRNA vaccine on or before May 30 WHO ALSO live in one of the following Delta hotspots: Durham, Halton, Hamilton, Peel, Porcupine, Simcoe-Muskoka, Toronto, Waterloo, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph and York public health units.

PRIORITY GROUPS

The following groups remain eligible for second doses on the manufacturer recommended timeline, including those ages 12-17:

- Those over 70 years old who received dose 1 at least 28 days prior
- Those who received their first dose of a mRNA vaccine on or before April 18 (regardless of age)
- Current residents of long-term care homes, retirement homes, elder care lodges and assisted living facilities as determined by the Ministry of Health.
- High Risk Health Care Workers
- Indigenous Peoples
- Those with certain health conditions, like transplant recipients, individuals undergoing hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis and individuals with malignant hematologic disorders and non-hematologic malignant solid tumors receiving active treatment, as well as those taking anti-CD20 agent medication (for example, rituximab, ocrelizumab, ofatumumab)

06/06/2021

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WHAT'S THE TIMELINE AND WHEN CAN I BOOK?

If you fall within the new eligibility, you will be able to book on Monday, June 21 and Wednesday, June 23 respectively via the provincial portal or through a pharmacy, provided the pharmacy has updated its stated eligibility.

The government has also indicated that all adult Ontarians will be able to book their 2nd doses beginning the week of June 28, and all youth 12-17 no later than August 9.

Once you are eligible to book, you will remain eligible to access the system (including to reschedule your appointment) going forward.

CAN I BOOK NOW FOR A DATE WHEN I BECOME ELIGIBLE?

No, you need to wait for eligibility to open up to your cohort in order to book your accelerated second dose.

WHAT ABOUT YOUTH (12-17)?

At the moment, the situation for youth remains a bit unclear. What we know for certain is that youth 12-17 can only receive Pfizer vaccines and will not have access to sites administering Moderna. Within the portal, sites administering Moderna are marked as ADULTS 18+ ONLY. Youth should not book at these sites even if they are admitted into the portal as an eligible population.

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WHAT ABOUT ASTRA ZENECA?

If your first dose was Astra Zeneca, you can choose to either get AZ or an mRNA vaccine (Moderna or Pfizer) as your second dose.

Regardless of which you choose, you will have a **minimum 8-week interval** (56 days) from the date of your first dose. If you are uncertain which option is best for you, please consult your physician.

Although you may prefer to go back to the same pharmacy where you got your first dose, you are eligible to book at ANY pharmacy offering a vaccine of your choosing. Please see the list of pharmacies here: [covid-19.ontario.ca/vaccine-locations](https://www.covid-19.ontario.ca/vaccine-locations)

Additionally, if you are looking to book Moderna or Pfizer, you are able to book via the provincial portal. Note new appointment slots are added continuously and once you are eligible to book, you will remain eligible to access the system (including to reschedule your appointment) going forward.

CAN I MIX PFIZER AND MODERNA?

NACI has confirmed that a mixed vaccine schedule can be completed safely and is effective. To ensure maximum protection against COVID-19 and the Delta variant, Ontarians are encouraged to get vaccinated as soon as possible.

MANUFACTURER-RECOMMENDED DOSE INTERVALS

If your first dose was:

- Moderna: 28 days
- Pfizer: 21 days
- AstraZeneca: 56 days

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WHERE CAN I BOOK?

We expect booking to be available through a number of options, similar to first doses but adapted for our much larger current supply of vaccines.

For public health units using the provincial system, including mixed systems, the provincial portal will be available to book second dose appointments regardless of where you received your first dose at:

[covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine](https://www.covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine) OR by phone by calling the Provincial Vaccine Booking Line at **1-833-943-3900**

(TTY for people who are deaf, hearing-impaired or speech-impaired: **1-866-797-0007**)

CAN I RECEIVE MY SECOND DOSE AT A DIFFERENT CLINIC / PHARMACY THAN MY FIRST?

Yes. You will be able to book at any provincial mass vaccination site (availability pending), and we anticipate pharmacies will also have flexible booking requirements. However, we anticipate that it is likely that hospital clinics will only accept those who received their first dose from them.

I HAVE RE-BOOKED MY APPOINTMENT - DO I NEED TO DO ANYTHING WITH MY OLD BOOKING?

If your original second dose was booked through the provincial portal, it will be automatically canceled if you book your new appointment through the provincial system. Similarly, if you had an original second dose booking at a hospital and re-booked at the same hospital, you will not need to do anything further.

However, if your original booking and your new booking have been made through different booking systems (provincial vs hospital vs pharmacy), be sure to cancel the original booking.

I DON'T HAVE A HEALTH (OHIP) CARD — HOW DO I ACCESS THE PROVINCIAL BOOKING SYSTEM?

One route to get your second dose would be to check for pharmacies, hospital clinics, pop ups and primary care providers with availability as they do not require an OHIP.

If you are NOT eligible for OHIP, you can also call your local Public Health Unit (PHU) (look up at www.phdapps.health.gov.on.ca/phulocator/), who will either issue you a booking number that you can use in order to book via the provincial call centre, or take your information and inform you of the process.

The following public health units DO NOT have access to the provincial booking system and residents will need to find further information from their PHU:

Algoma | Brant County | Chatham-Kent | Durham Region | Halton Region | Huron Perth | Lambton | Middlesex-London / Southwestern | Porcupine | Renfrew County | Region of Waterloo | Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph | Windsor Essex

Pharmacies and some family doctors should have doses available.

In some cases, hospital, mobile, and pop-up clinics will begin to open second-dose availability. Please pay careful attention to eligibility at these clinics, as not all will be administering second doses.

WHAT IF I HAVE A RED & WHITE HEALTH CARD?

You will have to book via call centre.

I GOT MY FIRST DOSE AT A POP-UP. HOW DO I BOOK MY SECOND DOSE?

At this time, everyone in a public health unit that uses the provincial system **and who provided an OHIP number at check-in for their first dose** can access their records and book a second dose appointment beginning at their eligible interval (12 or 16 weeks). The clinic or hospital that coordinated your first dose may have additional options for you.

The provincial portal will check the COVaxON vaccine record system to confirm your age, the date of your first dose, and any information about a pre-existing second dose appointment. Pharmacies will also have access to this system.

If you did not use your OHIP number to check in at your first dose appointment and you have one, please contact the "authorized organization" listed on your Dose Receipt to get your vaccine record matched to your OHIP record. If you do not have OHIP, please follow the steps below.

If you're eligible for OHIP, you can go in and apply in person at ServiceOntario (please book an appointment). See www.ontario.ca/page/apply-ohip-and-get-health-card for more information. You will then need to contact the "authorized organization" listed on your Dose Receipt to get your vaccine record matched to your OHIP record. Once that is complete, you will be able to use the health card number given to you to book via call centre (you will NOT be able to book via website without a physical OHIP card).