

COVID-19 vaccines for Ontario

- Vaccines are safe, effective and the best way to protect you and those around you from serious illnesses like COVID-19.
- The coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine does not cause a coronavirus infection. It helps to build up your immunity.
- Vaccines work with your immune system so your body will be ready to fight the virus if you are exposed. This can reduce your risk of developing COVID-19 and make your symptoms milder if you do get it.
- After independent and thorough scientific reviews, Health Canada has approved two vaccines for use in Canada:
 - [Pfizer-BioNTech](#) – approved on December 9, 2020.
 - [Moderna](#) – approved on December 23, 2020. Moderna vaccine is easier to transport and store safely. Because of this, the government plans to administer the Moderna vaccine in long-term care homes, congregate settings that provide care for seniors and more rural and remote communities.
- Both vaccines require two doses.
- After two doses, they are expected to be 94-95% effective.

Vaccine safety

- **Only vaccines that Health Canada determines to be safe and effective will be approved for use in Canada.**
 - This means the vaccines:
 - were tested on a large number of people through extensive clinical trials
 - have met all the requirements for approval
 - will be monitored for any adverse reactions
 - Ontario's plan to make sure vaccines remain safe 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
 - Read [more information on vaccines](#) and [vaccine authorization updates](#) from the Government of Canada.
 - Check [Ontario.ca/covidvaccine](https://ontario.ca/covidvaccine) regularly for up-to-date information on the vaccine and implementation phases.
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