

What are the implications of vaccine supply shortage in Canada?

- **With increasing vaccine supply in Canada, the dose interval for two-dose vaccines (i.e. Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca) will continue to be adjusted.** For Ontario, please refer to the provincial government website for the latest guidance: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccines-getting-your-second-dose#accelerating-second-doses>.
 - Previously, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), an independent advisory board to the federal government, updated its recommendation to prioritize getting first vaccine shots into the arms of as many people as possible.
 - Check the National Advisory Committee on Immunization website at <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/recommendations-use-covid-19-vaccines.html>.
 - We have data that show COVID-19 vaccines remain effective for at least two months and up to four months after the first shot.^{1,2}
- Like other multi-dose vaccines, the first dose of COVID-19 vaccine provides short-term protection, and the second dose provides long-term protection.
 - As long as the second vaccine is given after the minimum duration, the length of time between doses should not affect the long-term protection.
 - The minimum duration between shots is 21 days for the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine;
 - 28 days for the Moderna vaccine¹ and
 - 28 days for AstraZeneca vaccine.^{1,3}
- The World Health Organization (WHO) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also support increasing the wait period between vaccine doses when supply is short.^{4,5}

If I miss the second dose of the vaccine, do I have to start the whole process over again?

- You will **not** need to begin the whole process over again.^{1,6}

- Research shows that the second vaccine shot can be safely delayed for up to four months after the first shot.¹

Will I need a booster dose after completing the two-dose vaccine series?

- No, currently there is no evidence that a booster vaccine shot is needed after completion of the COVID-19 vaccine series; however, studies are underway and recommendations may be updated in the future.
- Please check the latest recommendation on NACI's website: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/recommendations-use-covid-19-vaccines.html>.

References

1. Public Health Agency of Canada. Recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccines. aem. Published July 22, 2020. Accessed August 9, 2021. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/recommendations-use-covid-19-vaccines.html#b2>
2. Office of the Premier. Ontario Adjusts Vaccination Plan in Response to Pfizer-BioNTech Shipment Delays | Ontario Newsroom. Ontario Newsroom. Published January 25, 2021. Accessed May 28, 2021. <https://news.ontario.ca/en/release/60091/ontario-adjusts-vaccination-plan-in-response-to-pfizer-biontech-shipment-delays>
3. Voysey M, Clemens SAC, Madhi SA, et al. Safety and efficacy of the ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 vaccine (AZD1222) against SARS-CoV-2: an interim analysis of four randomised controlled trials in Brazil, South Africa, and the UK. *The Lancet*. 2021;397(10269):99-111. doi:10.1016/S0140-6736(20)32661-1
4. CDC. Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines. Published March 5, 2021. Accessed May 28, 2021. <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/clinical-considerations.html>
5. World Health Organization. Interim recommendations for use of the Pfizer–BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, BNT162b2, under Emergency Use Listing. Published online January 2021. Accessed May 28, 2021. https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-2019-nCoV-vaccines-SAGE_recommendation-BNT162b2-2021.1
6. CDC. COVID-19 and Your Health: Understanding mRNA Vaccines. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Published February 11, 2020. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/different-vaccines/mrna.html>