

# Why is it OK to mix COVID-19 vaccine brands?

It is very important to receive 2 doses of COVID-19 vaccines so that you will be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and its variants. You are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after your 2nd dose.

## Is it OK to get a different COVID-19 vaccine for my 2nd dose?

Yes! It is safe and effective in protecting you against COVID-19 and its variants.

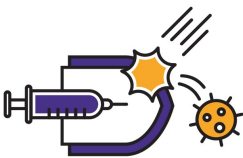


## Has “mixing” been done before for other vaccines?

Yes, it is very common. For example, different brands of vaccines for hepatitis B or measles are often combined.

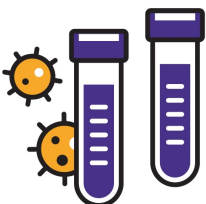
## Why am I being offered a different vaccine for dose 2?

The deliveries of each vaccine to Canada can vary from week to week, and sometimes the brand of vaccine you received for dose 1 may not be available for dose 2 when you can get it. We don’t know how long you’ll have to wait to get the same brand of vaccine for dose 2. Getting vaccinated with the first available mRNA vaccine you are offered (Moderna or Pfizer) is the best way to protect yourself from COVID-19.



## Which COVID-19 vaccine should I receive for my second dose?

Canada is currently offering Moderna and Pfizer COVID vaccines for most first and second doses. These vaccines are essentially identical and very effective (about 95% effective in preventing COVID illness after 2 doses).



## You can safely combine different COVID-19 vaccine brands for your 1st and 2nd doses:



Vaccine Received for 1st Dose	Options for 2nd Dose
Pfizer/BioNTech	Pfizer or Moderna At least 21 days AFTER 1st dose
Moderna	Moderna or Pfizer At least 28 days AFTER 1st dose
AstraZeneca	Pfizer or Moderna (recommended) Or AstraZeneca At least 56 days (8 weeks) AFTER 1st dose

If you take any of the recommended combinations, you are considered fully vaccinated 2 weeks after the 2nd dose.



## Will I experience different side effects if I receive a different vaccine for my 2nd dose?

Moderna and Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines are very safe and have similar side effects. The most common possible side effects include shoulder/arm pain at the site of injection, body and muscle pains, chills, feeling tired and feeling feverish. Some people experience slightly stronger side effects after their second dose of the vaccine (e.g. feeling more tired or having more muscle aches) – this means your immune system is working! These side effects typically improve in about one to three days.

**It is important for you to receive TWO doses of the COVID-19 vaccines to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and its variants. This protects you, your loved ones, and your community from COVID-19 illness.**



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*Accurate as of July 7, 2021*

The information in this bulletin has been validated by Canadian doctors: Meb Rashid MD, Assistant Professor, University of Toronto; Vanessa Redditt, MD, Lecturer, University of Toronto; and Isaac I. Bogoch, MD, Associate Professor, University of Toronto.

Content contributions from: Andrea Chittle, Kelly Grindrod, Noah Ivers, Samira Jeimy, Tara Kiran, Kate Miller, Menaka Pai, Adrian Poon, Samantha Yammine, Sabina Vohra-Miller, Kristen Watt, Holly Witteman



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