

# Vaccination Station

## The COVID-19 Vaccine: What You Need to Know

**The Public Health Agency of Canada has authorized four COVID-19 vaccines for distribution nationwide. Learn more about the vaccine and how it works so you can make the right decision for your health, the health of your loved ones and the health of your community. Note: The information presented here comes from the Public Health Agency of Canada. For more information, visit the “Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)” page on [canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca).**

### Is the vaccine safe?

The Canadian vaccination development process is designed to ensure **all** vaccines are safe before being authorized. Although the COVID-19 vaccine was authorized in record time, the steps in the authorization process remained the same—no corners were cut. Here’s how the process works:

- Lab research and humane testing on animals is conducted.
- With authorization from the Canadian government, clinical trials begin in various phases.
- In each phase, the vaccine is tested for safety and efficacy. As the vaccine moves into the next phase, it is tested on progressively larger and more diverse groups of people.

### How was the vaccine authorized so quickly?

Many stages of the vaccination development process were run parallel to one another. For example, manufacture of the vaccine began while the vaccine was still in clinical trials, so that the vaccine would be ready to roll out if it was authorized. No step of the traditional development and review process was neglected.

### How does the vaccine work?

Some of the COVID-19 vaccines work by having the body mimic the “spike proteins” that stud the virus’s surface. First, the vaccine delivers a snippet of the virus’s genetic code, known as messenger RNA (mRNA). The mRNA then instructs the body to build copies of the spike protein that studs the virus’ surface. The body’s immune system responds by creating antibodies, which are then able to attack the COVID-19 virus, should you become infected. Other vaccines work by using another type of virus, known as an “adenovirus” to train the body to recognize the COVID-19 virus and produce antibodies for it.

Some vaccines require two doses to be fully effective. Your vaccination provider should provide the required guidelines at the time of your visit.

**For more information on the COVID-19 vaccine, visit the Government of Canada website at [canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca).**

Please note, the information contained in this flier is sourced from information provided by the Government of Canada & Public Health Agency of Canada. For further information, refer to: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>



LOGO PLACEMENT

## When can I get the vaccine?

Distribution of the vaccine is being managed by province. Please refer to the “Provincial and Territorial Immunization Information” page at [canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca).

## Where can I get the vaccine?

Vaccine supply is distributed by the Government of Canada. As the rollout of the vaccine progresses, register with your local health authority and you will be directed to vaccination sites in your area.

## Is the vaccine free?

The vaccine is available free of charge to every Canadian who wants one.

## Does the vaccine have side effects?

You may experience some side effects after receiving the vaccine—these are usually signs that the body is building up immunity and should fade after a few days. Common symptoms may include:

- Pain and swelling at the site of the shot
- Fever
- Chills
- Tiredness
- Headache

For more information on the vaccine’s potential side effects, visit the “Vaccine safety and possible side effects” page at [canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca).

## What should I do after getting the vaccine?

You will not get full protection from COVID-19 until about two weeks after being fully vaccinated. Because of this—and because the vaccine is slowly being rolled out nationwide—you should continue to practice the following safety measures to protect those around you even after you become vaccinated:

- Wear a face mask that covers your nose and mouth
- Wash your hands often with soap and water
- Stay six feet away from others
- Avoid crowds

For further guidance on how to protect yourself from COVID-19, visit the “Coronavirus disease (COVID-19): Prevention and risks” page at [canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca).