

## Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)

# What You Need to Know About COVID-19 Vaccine

This fact sheet provides information on the safety and effectiveness of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines. See PHO's [COVID-19 Vaccines](#) webpage for more resources on vaccines.

### About mRNA COVID-19 vaccines

- The two currently approved COVID-19 vaccines in Ontario are messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines, Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna.
- Messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccines are designed to produce an immune response that protects us against the virus that causes COVID-19.
- The vaccine does not give you the virus. It provides our cells with instructions on how to produce a copy of a protein that is found on the surface of the COVID-19 virus. Our bodies recognize this protein which is what starts our immune response.



### COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective

- Both COVID-19 vaccines approved by Health Canada have been studied in clinical trials involving more than 70,000 individuals.
- The vaccines cannot give you COVID-19.
- The vaccines have been approved by Health Canada after they were shown to be safe, effective and of high quality.
- In clinical trials, the COVID-19 vaccines were more than 94% effective in preventing COVID-19 among people who had received two doses.
- As of early January 2021, more than 32 million people have been immunized with either of the two mRNA vaccines as part of [COVID-19 vaccine programs](#) around the world.
- The vaccines do not interfere with COVID-19 test results used to look for infection and do not give false positive test results.
- More research is being done to determine how long the vaccine protection lasts, and if it will prevent others around you from getting sick with COVID-19.



## Like every vaccine, there may be possible side effects

- The most common side effects are pain at the injection site, fatigue and headaches.
- Other common side effects can include: fever, chills, muscle pain and joint pain.
- These side effects usually occur within 1-2 days after vaccination and go away within 1-3 days.

## Continue to protect yourself and others

- Until vaccines are widely available, it is important to continue to protect yourself and your loved ones from COVID-19.
- Keep practicing protective measures such as washing your hands, physical distancing, covering your mouth when you cough, wearing a mask and following local public health guidance.

## Learn about the virus

To learn more and access up-to-date information on COVID-19, visit the Ontario Ministry of Health's website: [ontario.ca/coronavirus](https://ontario.ca/coronavirus).

For more information please contact: \_\_\_\_\_

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