



Primary Care
Alberta

2025/2026 COVID-19 Vaccine Additional Dose Immunization Program

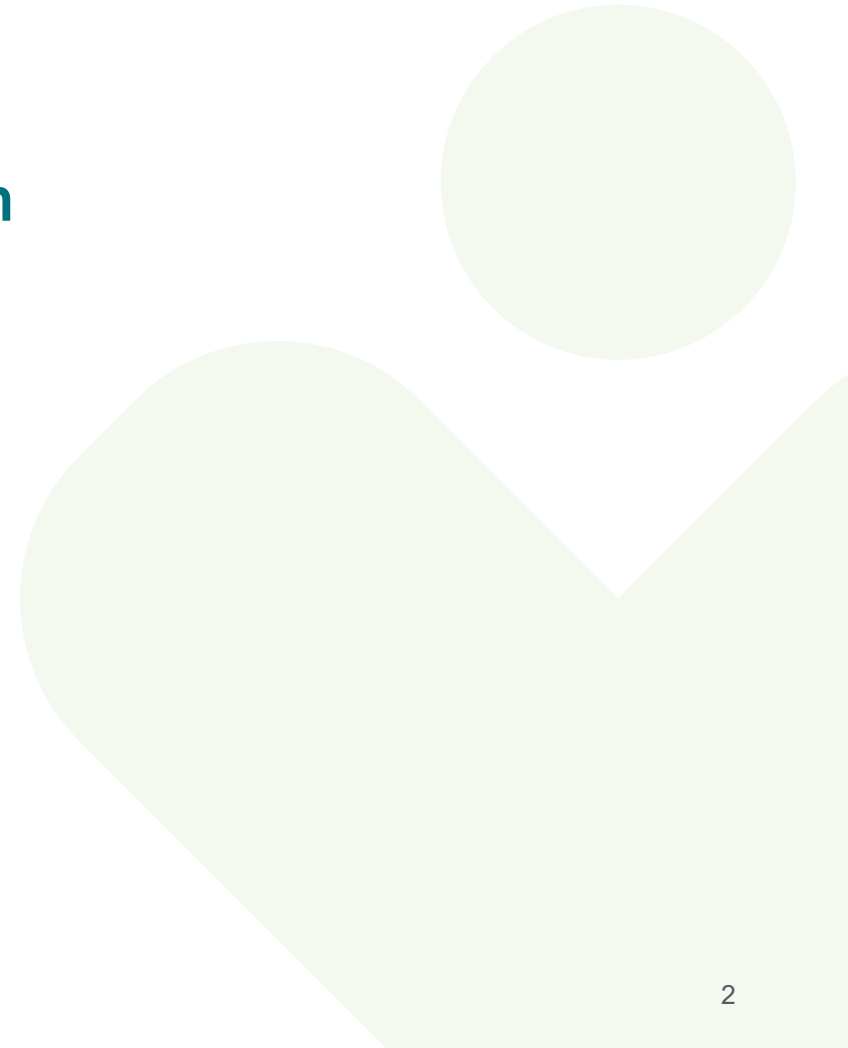
Presented by: Provincial Immunization Program Clinical Support Team





Objectives

- Overview of Provincial Immunization Program
- COVID-19 Additional Dose Immunization Program
- COVID-19 Resources





Provincial Immunization Program



**Provincial Immunization
Clinical Support Team**
(CDCIMM Team)



**Provincial Adverse Event
Following Immunization Team**
(AEFI Team)



**Provincial Partner
Oversight Team**
(PPO Team)



Provincial Immunization Clinical Support Team (CDCIMM) Responsibilities

Work collaboratively with provincial CDC program staff, partners from the community and the four health care pillars and Medical Officers of Health to implement the immunization program

Provide support in the form of recommendations and guidance to help interpret provincial immunization policies and standards for Public Health and other partners

Reinforce the vaccine storage and handling policy and make recommendations for cold chain management



Adverse Event Following Immunization (AEFI) Team Responsibilities

Investigate AEFI reports in accordance with the Public Health Act, Immunization Regulation

Assess and provide recommendations for further immunization in consultation with MOH. Communicate immunization recommendations to client/immunizer

Document recommendations in electronic database. Submit AEFI to Primary and Preventative Health Services (PPHS)

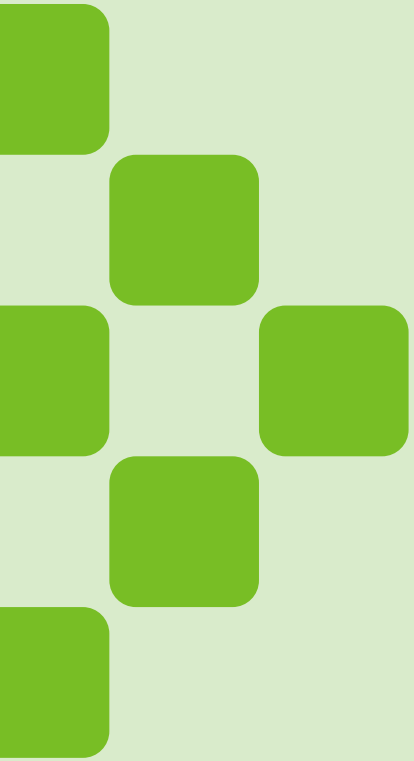


Provincial Partner Oversight (PPO) Team Responsibilities

Ensure senior's congregate care facilities have an immunization provider and assist in the allocation of vaccines related to seasonal immunization programs

Report data to Primary and Preventative Health Services (PPHS) and Public Health for vaccine allocation and distribution

Provide support to facilities prior to and during the Seasonal Outreach Immunization Program. See information on website: [Provincial Partner Oversight Team](#)



COVID-19 Disease Background



Burden of COVID-19 Disease



COVID-19 is a respiratory infection caused by SARS-CoV-2 and can cause mild to severe illness, including hospitalization and death. Certain populations, such as young infants, older adults, and those with chronic health conditions are at higher risk for serious illness.



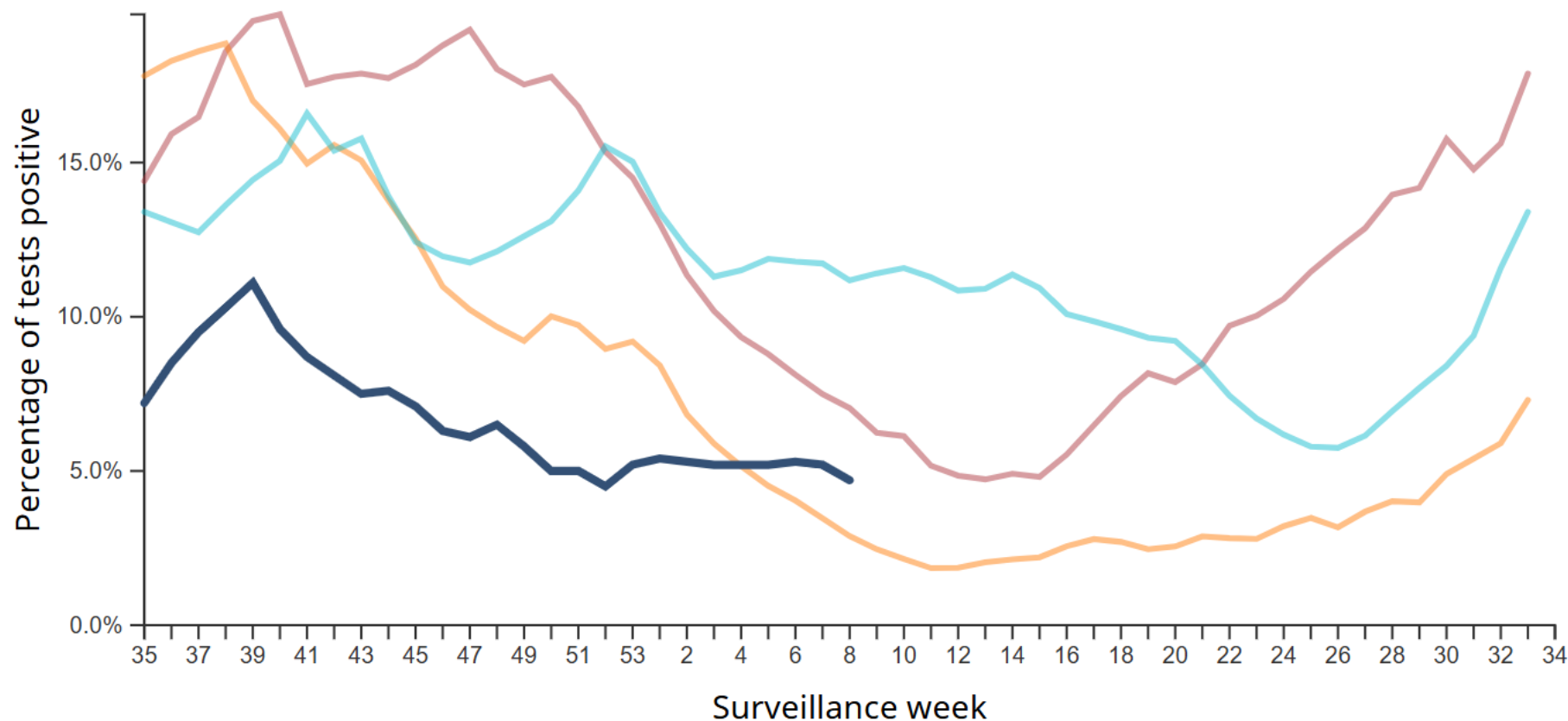
The evolutionary trajectory of SARS-CoV-2 is uncertain, but the virus undergoes antigenic changes over time, resulting in distinct variants or subvariants. Antigenic changes result in ongoing assessments of the circulating strain(s) selected for the development of COVID-19 vaccines internationally.



Burden of COVID-19 Disease

Figure 3: Percentage of tests positive for COVID-19 in Canada for surveillance period 2025-2026 compared to previous periods

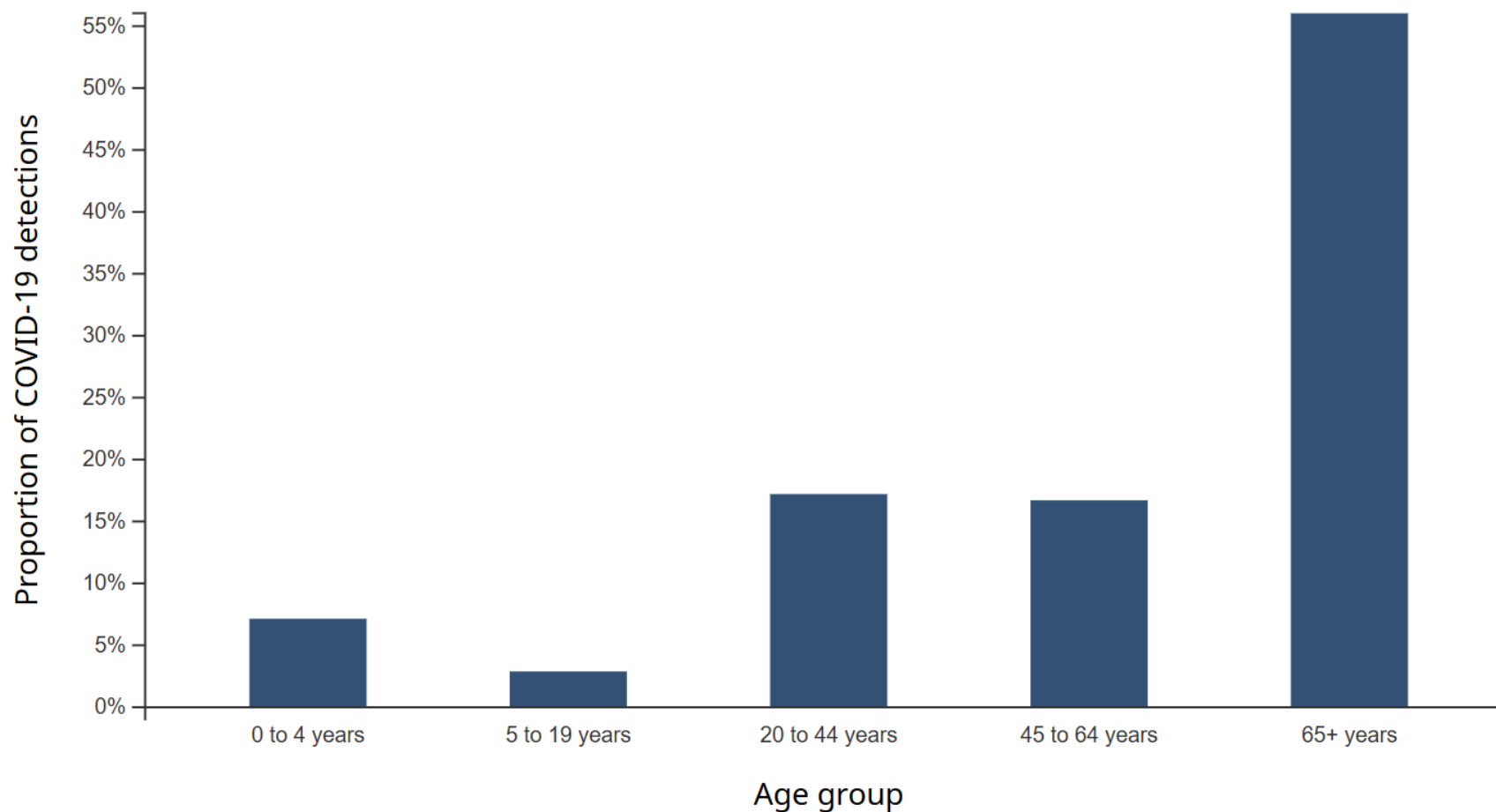
Select seasons **2025-2026** 2024-2025 2023-2024 2022-2023 Deselect all

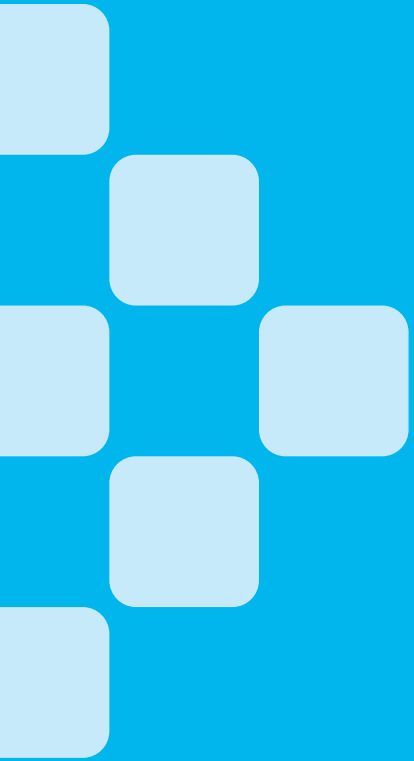




Burden of COVID-19 Disease

Figure 5: Proportion of reported COVID-19 detections in Canada by age group, 2025-2026 surveillance period





COVID-19 Immunization Program



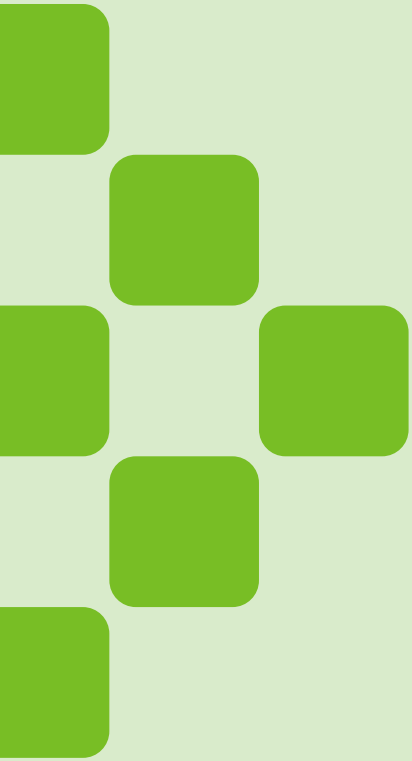
Fall/Winter 2025-2026 Eligibility for Provincially Funded COVID-19 Vaccine

- Eligible healthcare workers
- Albertans who reside in continuing care homes, senior supportive living accommodations
- Home care clients who are homebound
- Individuals 6 months of age and older who have certain moderate to severe immunocompromising conditions or underlying medical conditions
- Individuals experiencing houselessness
- Individuals 65 years of age and older receiving the Alberta Seniors Benefit
- Teachers (vaccine administered through Public Health is provided at no cost to teachers)



2025/2026 COVID-19 Vaccine Additional Dose Immunization Program

**Starting
April 7, 2026**



COVID-19 Vaccine Product Information



COVID-19 Vaccine Available in Alberta for 2025/2026 Additional Dose Program

mRNA

Moderna (Spikevax) Vaccine





Moderna (Spikevax) LP.8.1 mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine Summary

	Moderna COVID-19 Frozen Vaccine
Dosage/Route	6 months of age to 11 years of age: 0.25 mL (25 mcg) / IM (deltoid or vastus lateralis) 12 years of age and older: 0.5 mL (50 mcg) / IM (deltoid or vastus lateralis)
Packaging	6 months to 11 years - Multi-dose vial: 10 pediatric doses per vial 12 years and older - Pre-filled syringe: 10 doses per package
Diluent	No
Indication	Albertans 6 months of age and older See biological page for specific information
Ingredients	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• mRNA - nucleoside-modified mRNA (modRNA) platform formulated in lipid nanoparticles (LNPs)• No adjuvants, preservatives or antibiotics• See biological page for complete listing of non-medicinal ingredients
Schedule	2025/2026 COVID-19 Additional Dose Immunization Program: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• One dose, at least 3 months from previous LP.8.1 COVID-19 vaccine dose. Refer to COVID-19 Vaccine Biological Page for Fall/Winter 2025-2026 scheduling.



Indications for Individuals Eligible for “Additional” LP.8.1 COVID-19 Dose

- Adults 80 years of age or older
- Adult residents of long-term care homes and other congregate living setting for seniors
- Individuals 6 months of age and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised (due to underlying condition or treatment)
- Adults 65 to 79 years of age with underlying medical conditions that place them at higher risk of severe COVID-19.

Note: Individuals who do not meet the criteria listed on the slide are not eligible for an additional dose of provincially funded COVID-19 vaccine.

Schedule for Individuals Eligible for “Additional” LP.8.1 COVID-19 Dose

- One dose, at least 3 months from previous LP.8.1 COVID-19 vaccine dose
- For those with moderate to severe immunocompromising conditions please refer to the COVID-19 vaccine biological page to ensure that a primary series has been completed, including a dose of LP.8.1, prior to offering an "additional" dose of LP.8.1



Moderna LP.8.1 mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine Dosage

- 6 months to 11 years of age: 0.25 mL (25 mcg)
- 12 years of age and older: 0.5 mL (50 mcg)





Contraindications

COVID-19 vaccine should **not** be administered to individuals who:

- Have a known severe hypersensitivity to any component of the vaccine.
- Two non-medicinal ingredients in the vaccine that have been associated with allergic reactions in other products:
 - Polyethylene glycol (PEG).
 - ❖ The potential allergen may be found in bowel preparation products for colonoscopy, laxatives, cough syrup, cosmetics, contact lens care solutions, skin products and some food and drinks.
 - Tromethamine (trometamol or Tris).
 - ❖ Component found in contrast media, oral and parenteral medications.
- Anaphylaxis to a previous dose of COVID-19 mRNA vaccine may not be an absolute contraindication.
 - See COVID-19 Vaccine biological page for details.
- Are less than licensed age for the product being used.



Precautions

- The safety and effectiveness of Moderna Spikevax is inferred from studies and based on safety data from clinical trials which evaluated primary and booster vaccination and post marketing safety data; safety data accrued are relevant to the subsequent variant updated vaccines because these vaccines are manufactured using the same process.
- Individuals receiving anticoagulant therapy or those with a bleeding disorder that would contraindicate intramuscular injection should not be given the vaccine unless the potential benefit clearly outweighs the risk of administration.
- Administration should be postponed in individuals suffering from acute severe febrile illness.
- Individuals who have had a serious allergic reaction to another vaccine, drug or food should talk to their health care provider before receiving the vaccine.



Moderna mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine Reactions

	Possible Reactions
Common	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pain, swelling/induration, erythema at injection site• Chills, fever• Fatigue• Headache, myalgia, arthralgia• Diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite• Axillary swelling or tenderness• Irritability, crying• Dizziness• Hypoaesthesia or paraesthesia
Uncommon	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lymphadenopathy• Asthenia• Hyperhidrosis, night sweats
Rare	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Allergic reaction• Anaphylaxis• Erythema multiforme• Myocarditis/Pericarditis• Facial paralysis/Bell's palsy



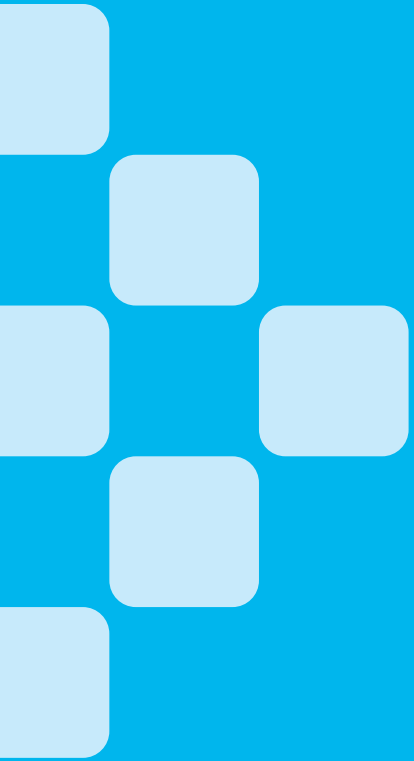
Myocarditis and/or Pericarditis

- If the individual reports myocarditis and/or pericarditis within 6 weeks of receiving a previous dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine and there is not a reported AEFI, **do not immunize**, and refer to Provincial AEFI team as per [Adverse Event Following Immunization \(AEFI\) Policy for Alberta Immunization Providers](#).
- Generally, deferral of COVID-19 immunization is not required for those with a prior history of myocarditis and/or pericarditis that is unrelated to COVID-19 vaccines.
 - If these individuals have questions or concerns about their prior history of myocarditis and/or pericarditis and immunization, it is recommended that individuals consult with their most responsible healthcare provider.
 - However, consultation with a clinician is not required to receive COVID-19 vaccines.



Pregnancy and Lactation

- COVID-19 vaccine should be offered to pregnant individuals regardless of trimester of pregnancy because of the increased risk that infection poses in pregnancy.
- COVID-19 vaccine should be offered to individuals who are lactating.
- It is recommended that individuals consult with their most responsible healthcare provider for any vaccine related questions or concerns. However, consultation with a clinician is not required to receive COVID-19 vaccine.



Resources





COVID-19 Vaccine Storage and Handling

Refer to the [Alberta Vaccine Storage and Handling for COVID-19 Vaccine](#)





Commitment To Comfort

Commitment to Comfort outlines five principles to improve the immunization experience, health outcomes and satisfaction, and to encourage repeat attendance to healthcare encounters:

- Make a comfort plan
- Use positive language
- Use comfort positions
- Shift attention
- Use numbing cream.





Anaphylaxis

Employees of Health Care Pillars in Alberta (Primary Care Alberta, Recovery Alberta, Acute Care Alberta, and Assisted Living Alberta) need to ensure they have completed the [Anaphylaxis Management](#) learning module.

Covenant Health employees need to ensure they have completed Covenant Health Anaphylaxis Learning Module found on CLiC.

All other providers must have Anaphylaxis Management Guidelines in place.

Additional information available in the [Canadian Immunization Guide – Vaccine Safety](#)



AEFI Reporting

- **Primary Care Alberta (PCA) Public Health** - AEFI reporting will continue to follow the procedure outlined in the [AEFI Standard](#) in the [Immunization Program Standards Manual \(IPSM\)](#)
- **Non-PCA Practitioners** report AEFI through the AEFI report form found at: [Adverse Event Following Immunization Reporting](#)
- Consult with Provincial Adverse Event Following Immunization (AEFI) Team at AEFI@primarycarealberta.ca or 1-855-444-2324 as soon as possible if there is uncertainty as to whether a symptom following immunization is related to the immunization.



Resource List

COVID-19 Health Professional Immunization Information:
[Insite](#) for employees of health care pillars in Alberta
[External](#) site for other health care professionals

Immunization Program Standards Manual (IPSM) Vaccine Biological pages:
[Insite](#) for employees of health care pillars in Alberta
[External](#) site for other health care professionals

[Alberta Immunization Policy \(AIP\)](#)

COVID-19 Vaccine Product Monographs

[Vaccine Storage and Handling Standard](#) and e-learning module

[Adverse Events Following Immunization \(AEFI\) Policy](#)

Site specific reporting requirements and data collection guidelines



Questions

Provincial Immunization Clinical Support Team (CDCIMM):

Email: CDCIMM@primarycarealberta.ca

Ph: 1-855-444-2324

Provincial Adverse Effect Following Immunization (AEFI) Team:

Email: AEFI@primarycarealberta.ca

Ph: 1-855-444-2324

Provincial Partner Oversight (PPO) Team:

Email: congregatelivingimmsupport@primarycarealberta.ca

Ph: 1-855-444-2324



References

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. COVID-19 Vaccines while pregnant or breastfeeding [Internet]. COVID-19. 2024. Available from: [COVID-19 Vaccination for People Who Are Pregnant or Breastfeeding | COVID-19 | CDC](#).

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Thank you