



Message from
Dr. Laura McDougall
Senior Medical Officer of Health



COVID-19 Immunization Update

Please print and share with your teams as needed

Dear staff, physicians and volunteers,

To keep staff and stakeholders informed about vaccine rollout progress, AHS will share regular updates over the next several weeks. Information is also available on our [COVID-19 Vaccine Webpage](#), and will be consolidated in the regular Friday staff emails.

Today's Update

- **By the Numbers**
- **Continue to Adhere to PPE, IPC & Public Health Guidance after Immunization**
- **Second Dose Immunization Window**
- **Vaccine Administration & Prescriber Responsibility**
- **Be Kind, We're in this Together**
- **Questions**

By the Numbers

As of 3 p.m. January 28, more than 102,900 total doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered in Alberta, including:

- 43,600+ Healthcare workers
- 29,800+ Long Term Care (LTC) and Designated Supportive Living (DSL) residents
- 28,700+ LTC/DSL staff
- 13,700 Albertans who have received both Dose 1 & Dose 2

Continue to Adhere to PPE, IPC & Public Health Guidance after Immunization

Many staff and physicians have asked if they're required to wear PPE and perform daily fit for work screening once they've had their two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. The answer is yes. This includes continuous masking, continuous eye protection and IPC recommendations for COVID-19. Watch the latest [PPE Question of the Week video](#) for more information.

PPE Question of the Week

Do I still need to wear
PPE if I already
received the COVID-19
vaccine? 



Dr. Stephen Tsekrekos answers PPE question of the week.

Healthcare workers who meet current COVID-19 exposure criteria (e.g. unprotected close contact with a COVID-19 case, return to Alberta from international travel) are still required to quarantine even if fully immunized.

While the COVID-19 vaccines being delivered have shown very high effectiveness in clinical trials, no vaccines are 100 per cent protective. As we learn more about the duration of protection and the effectiveness current vaccines have in reducing transmission of COVID-19, it's important for all immunized healthcare workers to continue to adhere to all PPE, IPC and public health guidance.

Second Dose Immunization Window

Due to the extremely limited vaccine supply in our province for the next few weeks, **only** residents of long term care and designated supportive living facilities can receive their second dose 3-4 weeks after their first dose. **All** other groups must be rebooked to have their second doses between 38-42 days. Appointments before this window cannot be accommodated except under exceptional circumstances. Every day is critical to our current vaccine supply to ensure that all Albertans can be immunized according to the recommended timelines.

Vaccine Administration & Prescriber Responsibility

The Chief Medical Officer of Health has signed a directive that allows for the administration of COVID-19 vaccine by regulated health practitioners under the authority of the Medical Officer of Health.

Individuals do not require individual client specific orders before COVID-19 vaccine can be administered in AHS sites, AHS contracted sites and by AHS staff acting under the authority of the Medical Officer of Health. This is one strategy that we are using to ensure that Albertans can be immunized as quickly as possible.

This directive does not replace the need for informed consent and a “fit to immunize” assessment at the time of immunization. Those activities would be routinely completed by the immunizer.

In private facilities, where AHS staff are not administering the vaccine, the vaccines should be considered Schedule 2 medications. This means that as a Schedule 2 medication, the immunizer would need to follow the guidance set out by their regulatory body and their employer about expectations on having client orders.

Be Kind, We’re in this Together

Sadly, there have been instances in recent weeks where our staff, including immunizers, Health Link staff and other frontline workers involved in the COVID-19 vaccine roll out, have been mistreated, verbally abused and disrespected while carrying out their duties.

Harassment is never OK and won’t be accepted. We understand this is a stressful and difficult time for many. Everyone is anxiously awaiting their turn for COVID-19 immunization and sometimes this leads to high emotions.

We want to immunize everyone, and we will immunize everyone, but we need the supply to do it. Until then, we will continue to work with what we have. Please be patient. Let’s be kind to one another so we can get through this together.

We are here for you and we are here to help. If you need support, please reach out:

- [Employee and Family Assistance Program \(EFAP\)](#), which can be reached by calling 1-877-273-3134.
- [Physician and Family Support Program \(PFSP\)](#) by the Alberta Medical Association. The support line at 1-877-SOS-4MDS (767-4637) is available 24-7.

Have a Question?

The full list of current vaccine delivery phases is available on the [Alberta Health website](#).

If you have any questions about the vaccine rollout, contact your supervisor or medical leader or see the [Staff FAQ](#). Additional information can be found on ahs.ca/covidvaccine. If your specific question is not addressed, please email AHSVaccineTaskforce@ahs.ca.

Sincerely,

Dr. Laura McDougall

Senior Medical Officer of Health



Healthy Albertans.
Healthy Communities.
Together.



