



Message from Dr. Verna Yiu & Dr. Laura McDougall

Eligibility Criteria for Phase 2B and 2C

Dear staff, physicians and volunteers,

As announced by [Alberta Health](#) this afternoon, we are pleased to share with you further details on COVID-19 vaccine rollout to Albertans in Phase 2B and 2C.

We recommend all Albertans get their vaccine as soon as they become eligible. Once someone becomes eligible, they remain eligible.

In Phase 2B and 2C, the province will continue to take a phased approach to protect those at high risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19, as well as those who interact with them, including healthcare workers and support staff.

For Phase 2C, the following groups are eligible to receive the vaccine:

- Healthcare workers working in patient care facilities or are providing direct patient care in the community, in order to limit spread to high risk individuals, including: physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dentists and all other regulated health care professionals and their office or support staff. **See details below.**
- Residents and support staff at eligible congregate living and work settings at risk for large outbreaks, including: correctional facilities, homeless shelters, meatpacking plants, group homes including disability, mental health and other types of licensed supportive living.
- Caregivers of Albertans who are most at risk of severe outcomes.

For healthcare workers, this includes:

- AHS, Covenant, Alberta Precision Labs and DynaLife staff who work in patient care facilities or provide services directly to clients in the community.
- Healthcare workers working in patient care facilities or are providing direct patient care in the community, in order to limit spread to high risk individuals, including: physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dentists and all other

- regulated health care professionals and their office or support staff.
- Healthcare workers on First Nation reserves.
- Students undertaking their placement practicums in clinical areas.

We recognize that protecting healthcare workers also protects our patients accessing care across the healthcare system, thus reducing overall spread of the virus.

Workers eligible in this phase will need to provide personal identification that contains a birth date and proof of employment or professional registration (i.e., employee ID card, letter of employment) when booking or attending their immunization appointments at an AHS site or at community pharmacies.

For Phase 2B, vaccine will be available to Albertans with underlying health conditions as they are most at risk of severe outcomes.

Among the many conditions listed, the following groups will be eligible to receive the vaccine:

- If you have chronic heart disease
- If you have received a solid organ, bone marrow or stem cell transplant
- If you have been diagnosed with or treated for cancer within the last year (except non-invasive skin cancer)
- If you have diabetes requiring insulin or other medication to control
- If you suffer from severe obesity or chronic liver, lung or kidney disease
- Anyone with a severe learning disability, developmental delay, or severe neuromuscular condition
- If you've been hospitalized at any point in the past year for mental illness or a substance use disorder
- If you are pregnant

A full list of associated underlying health conditions is available at alberta.ca/covid.

The conditions included in Phase 2B were recommended by the Alberta Advisory Committee on Immunization and were chosen as they are associated with a higher risk of death or hospitalization even in younger age groups, when comparing risks to those for people aged 50 to 64 with no underlying health conditions.

Alberta will operate on the honour system. A doctor's note or other proof of an underlying condition will not be required. Albertans may want to consult their healthcare provider prior to booking their appointment.

We expect to begin Phase 2B and 2C in April. Exact timing will depend on vaccine supply and will be announced closer to the start of each phase.

Phases 2B and 2C represent roughly one million Albertans. It will take some time to immunize everyone who wants the vaccine. For those who are not eligible in Phase

2B or 2C, we are working hard to ensure all Albertans who want a vaccine will get their first dose by the end of June.

We will continue to communicate with you openly and transparently as more information becomes available, this includes how and when to book appointments in the next phases of vaccine rollout.

For more information, please refer to alberta.ca/covid and [AHS' COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ](#).

As always, thank you for your patience and for your continued support.

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Healthy Albertans.
Healthy Communities.
Together.

