

Healthcare Worker COVID-19 Immunization

AHS strongly encourages all healthcare workers to get immunized once they are eligible. This will help protect themselves, their families, patients, and communities against COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines provide instructions to your body's immune system to recognize and fight off the virus that causes COVID-19.

Why get immunized for COVID-19?

Vaccines Work – Scientific and medical evidence show that immunization can help protect you against COVID-19. Studies are also showing that people who are immunized may have less severe illness if they do become ill from COVID-19.

Vaccines are Safe – Only vaccines that are proven to be safe, effective and of high quality are [authorized for use in Canada](#). The COVID-19 vaccines have been rigorously tested during their development and carefully reviewed by Health Canada. The vaccines cannot give you COVID-19 because they don't contain the virus that causes it. The vaccines also cannot change your DNA.

- mRNA vaccines provide instructions to your cells to make a coronavirus protein. This protein will trigger an immune response that will help to protect you against COVID-19.
- Viral vector vaccines use a virus that's been made harmless to produce coronavirus proteins in your body without causing disease. Similar to mRNA vaccines, this protein will trigger an immune response that will help to protect you against COVID-19.

Different people have different feelings and concerns about COVID-19 immunization, and that's OK. But we should all have the same information. It is best to speak to a healthcare professional about your questions.

What actions can staff and leaders take to increase immunization rates?

We all need to work together to maintain a work environment that promotes worker safety and well-being. We are responsible to ensure a safe work environment and to fulfill our responsibilities through the following actions:

- Get your COVID-19 immunization, and share that you did. What we say and do makes a difference. Help your coworkers to understand the importance of being immunized. Remember, you are role models.

- We encourage everyone to review current evidence from reputable sources to make informed decisions about getting immunized. See [Alberta Health's COVID-19 vaccine program](#) to learn more about the approved vaccines.
- COVID-19 vaccines are important tools to help us stop this pandemic. We need to follow all safe work practices even when vaccinated, including completing your daily [fit for work screening](#), adhering to all [personal protective equipment \(PPE\) measures \(continuous masking and eye protection\)](#), [washing your hands](#) regularly and [physically distancing](#).
- Please remember to complete the "Got My COVID-19 Immunization Form" on [Insite](#) once you have received your second dose of COVID-19 immunization.
- Let's stick with the facts, stick together and [learn more](#). Immunization is part of our shared responsibility and commitment to quality patient care and worker safety.
- Encourage people to find answers to commonly asked questions on our [public](#) and [staff](#) FAQs. For more information about COVID-19 see www.ahs.ca/covid.

Discussion Questions

1. Given this information, will you tell team members you got immunized?
2. Why do you think people might be hesitant about the COVID-19 immunization?
3. What can you do to support a colleague who has questions about getting immunized?
4. What can you do to encourage immunization within your team?

