

Gradual Vaccine Roll-out

Certain people will be offered the vaccine first:

- health care workers
- long term care and retirement home residents and their caregivers
- adults in Indigenous communities
- those who receive chronic home health care

Priority will be given to regions that have a higher number of cases of COVID-19. The general public will be offered vaccination at a later date as more vaccine becomes available.

Vaccine Distribution

It will take some time for Canada's orders of vaccine to arrive and to be distributed. The Moderna vaccine will most likely be the one that we see offered here in our communities as it can be handled and stored easily. The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine must be stored in deep cold temperatures.

Raise a cheer! Hope!

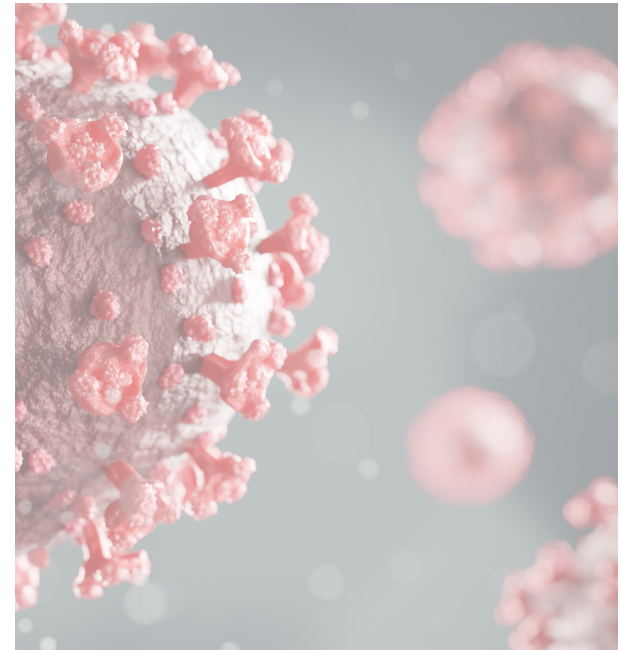
What a moment in history! It deserves celebration! But we need to continue to stay the course as the battle isn't over yet.

Hold the Line

In the meantime, be prepared.

- Continue to practice public health measures
- Keep up to date with reputable, trusted sources of information
- Have hope and patience as we all begin to take these first steps on this new part of our journey
- Get your flu shot so that you don't get sick and run down over the winter months
- Be an ambassador. Share the good news, facts, and truths about COVID-19 vaccine in your community.

Vaccination is a key part of our recovery. It will save many lives and restore many freedoms.



About COVID-19 Vaccines & Vaccination



Sioux Lookout
First Nations
Health Authority

*Information is changing quickly.
This is accurate as of Dec 23, 2020*

www.slnha.com

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, the Canadian government has been preparing a vaccine program that will offer Canadians safe and effective access to COVID-19 vaccination.

New Technologies & Rapid Development

The COVID-19 vaccine is new, but the science behind it has been in development since earlier coronavirus incidents such as the SARS pandemic (2003) and the MERS outbreak (2012). This vaccine was prepared, tested, and approved in a short time because of the urgent need.

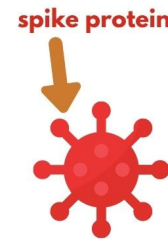
Scientific Review

Health Canada, along with top experts, review all scientific data and evidence from vaccine trials. When a vaccine proves to be safe and effective, and when the benefits outweigh the risks, then the vaccine is approved for use in Canada. This process continues even after the vaccine is approved for use.

mRNA vaccines

The first two COVID-19 vaccines to arrive in Canada are mRNA vaccines. An mRNA vaccine delivers a message to your cells with a recipe to make 'spike proteins'. Your cells will begin to make spike proteins, like those on a COVID-19 virus. Your immune system responds by making antibodies to destroy these foreign spike proteins. If you are exposed to the coronavirus, your body will recognize the spike proteins and will respond by attacking them. This process has been seen to work best *1-2 weeks after the second dose is given.

*1 week-Pfizer, 2 weeks-Moderna



Milestones!

On December 9, 2020, Pfizer-BioNTech became the first COVID-19 mRNA vaccine approved for use in Canada. A personal service worker in Ontario was the first Canadian to receive the first dose of this vaccine on December 14. On December 23, the Moderna vaccine was also approved.

First Facts

The first two mRNA vaccines:

- offer up to 95% protection one week after the second dose
- is given in the upper arm muscle
- have common side effects similar to other vaccines
 - redness and tenderness at the vaccination site
 - slight fever
 - feeling tired and achy

Adverse side effects have been rare and include severe allergic reactions and *nausea after vaccination.

Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada continuously monitor the vaccines to ensure that they are effective and safe.

*Moderna vaccine

Vaccine for all

The Moderna vaccine is approved for those 18+ years of age. Vaccine trials will be soon underway for pregnant and breastfeeding individuals and those under 18 years old. It is expected that eventually, every person will be able to access COVID-19 vaccine.