

COVID-19 Vaccine Information for Community Physicians

Dear PCNs and community physicians,

Alberta Health Services is working with the [Government of Alberta](#) to plan distribution of COVID-19 vaccine in our province, which will [happen in phases](#).

The initial rollout of the Health Canada approved Pfizer vaccine began on December 15. The first Alberta doses were sent to Calgary and Edmonton where the highest numbers of COVID-19 cases are being experienced.

The first immunizations will be provided to eligible respiratory therapists, ICU staff and physicians, and some eligible continuing care healthcare workers in all zones. Staff and physicians included in the initial phase will be contacted directly and will travel to designated immunization sites as Pfizer has indicated the initial vaccine supply cannot be delivered to multiple locations.

We recognize that many staff and healthcare partners work with higher risk patients who are vulnerable to COVID-19, and with COVID-19-positive cases, and we greatly appreciate the vital work you do. The [Government of Alberta](#) has more information on which groups will likely be included in the different phases of the COVID-19 immunization program.

You are likely hearing questions from patients and colleagues about COVID-19 vaccination. The resources below will help you respond to questions, including who should and should not receive the vaccine, administration with other vaccines, possible reactions and more.

Vaccine Information

- [COVID-19 Vaccine – mRNA Pfizer – Ultra Frozen Vaccine Biological Page](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Information Sheet](#)
- Additional information on the [COVID-19 Health Professional Immunization Information page](#)
- Answers to frequently asked questions in the [COVID-19 FAQs for Community Physicians](#)

As additional vaccines are approved, information will always be added to the [Immunization Program Standard Manual](#).

Adverse Events Following Immunization (AEFI)

Physicians should report AEFIs using [this process](#).

An AEFI is defined as an unfavourable health occurrence experienced by a patient that:

- Follows immunization
- Cannot be attributed to a pre-existing condition and
- Meets one or more of the following as determined by a health practitioner:

Vaccine Information for primary care • 2

- A life-threatening health occurrence that requires hospitalization or urgent medical attention.
- The health occurrence is unusual or unexpected that:
 - Has not previously been identified; or
 - Has been previously identified but has increased frequency
- The health occurrence cannot be explained by the patient's medical history, recent disease or illness or consumption of medication.

We will continue to share COVID-19 vaccine information as it becomes available and as plans are finalized. Thank you for continuing to be our partners in the fight against COVID-19.

For more information:

For questions: phc@ahs.ca

Primary care information on COVID-19: ahs.ca/covidphc

Vaccine information for the public: ahs.ca/covidvaccine