



Office of the Provincial Health Officer

Valid contraindications and deferrals to COVID-19 vaccination

For support of medical accommodation under the Provincial Health Officer COVID-19 Vaccination Status Information and Preventive Measures Order

Vaccine type	Contraindication
COVID-19 mRNA vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna)	History of an anaphylactic reaction to components of both mRNA and adenovirus vector vaccine (i.e., polyethylene glycol and polysorbate 80)
	Deferral
COVID-19 viral vector vaccine (AstraZeneca)	Receipt of anti SARS-CoV-2 monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma for treatment or prevention of COVID-19 (except tocilizumab or sarilumab) – <i>defer for at least 90 days</i>
	Diagnosis of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome – <i>defer until fully recovered from illness and for 90 days after the date of diagnosis</i>
	Physician-diagnosed myocarditis or pericarditis following the first dose with no other cause identified – <i>defer until further information about the risk of recurrence is available. This event is reportable to the MHO.</i>
	Suspected hypersensitivity or non-anaphylactic allergy to COVID-19 vaccine components - <i>consultation with an allergist is advised.</i>
	Serious adverse event following first dose of vaccine awaiting recommendation for further vaccination by the Medical Health Officer
The following are NOT contraindications to COVID-19 vaccination:	
History of an anaphylactic reaction to a previous dose of mRNA or adenovirus vector vaccine. Such individuals may receive their 2 nd dose using vaccine of the different type.	
History of an anaphylactic reaction to any component of one type of vaccine. Such individuals may receive vaccine of the different type.	
History of thrombosis with thrombocytopenia following a previous dose of an adenovirus vector COVID-19 vaccine. Such individuals may receive mRNA vaccine.	
History of capillary leak syndrome. Such individuals may receive mRNA vaccine.	
History of cerebral venous sinus thrombosis (CVST) with thrombocytopenia, unrelated to adenovirus vector COVID-19 vaccination, or heparin induced thrombocytopenia (HIT). Such individuals may receive mRNA vaccine.	

Any deferral or contraindication related to an adverse event following immunization (AEFI) with COVID-19 vaccine must be reported for evaluation through the formal process for public health review and recommendations for subsequent doses.

For further guidance regarding the approach to individuals with allergies and COVID-19 vaccines, see Vander Leek TK, Chan ES, Connors L et al. COVID-19 vaccine testing & administration guidance for allergists/immunologists from the Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (CSACI). Allergy Asthma Clin Immunol. 2021 Mar 15;17(1):29. doi: 10.1186/s13223-021-00529-2. PMID: 33722299; PMCID: PMC7957441. <https://csaci.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/NEW-INFORMATION-TIMS-ARTICLE-MAR2021.pdf> Corresponding patient resource: <https://csaci.ca/covid-19-vaccines-faq/>