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Should you get the COVID Vaccination?

Community Living British Columbia (CLBC) is urging everyone who may have hesitated previously due to health conditions to talk to their healthcare practitioner again to help assess the risks of remaining unvaccinated and, to learn about the safety and protection that comes with a vaccination.

There are two types of vaccinations available in Canada:

1. mRNA vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna)
2. Viral Vector vaccine (Astrazeneca & Covisheild)

It is only people who have a severe allergic reaction to ingredients in the vaccine that should not receive a vaccination.

You should not get an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Moderna/Pfizer-BioNTech) if you have had a serious allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to:

- Polyethylene glycol (PEG), an ingredient in both the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines.
- A previous dose of either the Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine or any part of the vaccine.

You should not get a viral vector COVID-19 vaccine (AstraZeneca/ COVISHIELD) if you have had a serious allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) to:

- Polysorbate 80 which is in the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccines.
- A previous dose of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine or any part of the vaccine.

If you have an allergy to an ingredient in one type of COVID-19 vaccine, you are **still able to receive the other type** - e.g., if you have an allergy to an ingredient in a mRNA vaccine, you can get the viral vector vaccine instead. Speak with your healthcare provider if you have any questions.

For more information

- [listen to the recording of CLBC's recent teleconference call here](#)
- [visit the BC CDC webpage here](#)



Third dose of the vaccine

A third dose of COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for some people who are moderate to severely immunocompromised.

Some people with compromised immune systems do not develop a strong immune response from two doses of vaccine because of their use of certain medications and treatments, as well as some health conditions.

For this group, it takes an additional dose to have a reasonable level of immunity and protection against COVID-19. Studies show that giving a third dose to complete the initial vaccine series can help individuals with compromised immune systems create a stronger immune response to protect them from COVID-19.

Individuals in this group will be invited through the provincial "Get Vaccinated" system to get a third dose of vaccine.

This recommendation aligns with the recommendations from the [National Advisory Committee on Immunization](#).

How to get the third dose

- You will receive an invitation by text, email, or phone call through the Get Vaccinated system about how and when to book a third dose.
- You must wait at least four weeks after your second dose to get your third dose.
- People who are not eligible and who did not receive an invitation through the Get Vaccinated system will not be able to get a third dose.
- If you believe you meet the criteria to get a third dose and have not been contacted yet, get in touch with your health care provider. Your health care provider can complete the [Attestation Letter](#) to confirm your eligibility for a third dose.
- You do not need a third dose to be considered fully vaccinated on your BC Vaccine Card.

[vaccine-registration-eligibility](#)

The New Disability Tax Credit (DTC) Form

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) is supporting people with disabilities and their medical practitioners by making it easier than ever to apply for the Disability Tax Credit (DTC).

The CRA recently launched a new version of the DTC application form (T2201) that includes an updated section for medical practitioners. Section B is used to provide the CRA with important health information about the restrictions an individual may be experiencing when they apply for the DTC.

For more Info. visit [Canadian Revenue Agency](https://www.cra.gc.ca)

New Resource Portal for families, self-advocates, and employees

We are pleased to introduce our new *Resource Portal* that is now available on our website <https://www.communitylivingsociety.ca/resources/>

This *Resource Portal* will provide supported individuals, families and our employees with valuable, vetted information in the following key areas:

- Food and Shelter
- I Have a Complaint
- Important Information about CLS
- My Health
- My Money
- My Rights and Responsibilities
- My Safety and Security
- Self-Advocacy
- Support Programs I can Access
- Work and Volunteer

