Information for post-secondary students

COVID-19 Vaccination **FAQ**

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I was vaccinated outside of B.C. How do I know if that's adequate?

➲ If you received one or more COVID-19 vaccine doses outside of B.C., you need to register your out-of-province immunization records so it can be added to the Provincial Immunization Registry. Visit www.immunizationrecord.gov.bc.ca to submit your records.

Is it safe and effective to mix vaccine brands?

➲ Mixing and matching vaccines is actually not new. Similar vaccines from different manufacturers are often used interchangeably in other routine vaccination programs. In other words, there are standards already in place to determine when mixing is safe and effective. B.C.'s recommendations on "mix and match" are based on evidence from studies and National Advisory Committee on Immunization's (NACI) expert opinion. It's important that you complete the vaccine series – you are not fully vaccinated until you've had both doses. This is because both doses are needed to get the most effective protection against serious cases COVID-19. A second dose also offers longer-lasting protection.

Can I get COVID-19 from the vaccine?

➲ You cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine. However, if you were exposed to the virus before you received your vaccine, you may be incubating the virus and not realize you have COVID-19 until after you are vaccinated. It takes about two weeks to gain protection from the COVID-19 vaccine. This means if you contracted the virus before getting the vaccine, or within the two-week period following vaccination, you may still get sick from COVID-19. If you experience symptoms of COVID-19 after you've been vaccinated, use B.C. self-assessment tool to determine if you need to be tested.

Why do some people who are vaccinated still get sick?

➲ No vaccine is 100% effective and the greater the proportion of people vaccinated in a population, the greater the proportion of cases will occur among vaccinated people. However, the overall number of cases will be much lower than without vaccination, and the severity of illness among vaccinated people (including hospitalization and death) is lower.

How do I know if I should be tested for COVID-19?

➲ A COVID-19 test may be recommended if you had contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 and you are experiencing symptoms like cough, sore throat or body aches. If you feel unwell or unsure, you can use the BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool online, contact your primary care provider or call 8-1-1 to speak with a nurse. 8-1-1 translation services are available in more than 130 languages and via Video Relay Services for the deaf and hard of hearing.

What happens if I delay my vaccine?

➲ Delaying the vaccine is not recommended as the longer you wait, the longer you remain unprotected and prolong the risk that you and others could get COVID-19. Research on the approved COVID-19 vaccines showed they are highly effective against COVID-19 based on clinical trials with tens of thousands of participants and the real world data is showing the same.

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Who should not get the vaccine?
➲ Nearly everyone can safely receive the vaccine, although a very small number of people may need to avoid vaccination due to [severe allergies](#) to parts of the vaccine. Learn more about consideration for the vaccine by visiting [gov.bc.ca/covid19](#).

I'm not a permanent resident of B.C. Can I be vaccinated?
➲ You do not need to be a permanent resident of B.C. to receive COVID-19 vaccination free of charge. If you don't have a Personal Health Number please call 1-833-838-2323 to register for your vaccine. Your information will be kept private.

I had COVID-19 and recovered. Do I still need to be vaccinated?
➲ If you had COVID-19 you should still get both doses of the vaccine once you have recovered. Your body naturally generates antibodies when you get COVID-19, but we do not know how long immunity lasts, or how many antibodies your body produces. This is why some people have had COVID-19 more than once, and why it is recommended you still get vaccinated. You do not need to get a COVID-19 disease or antibody test before getting your vaccine. People who are sick with COVID-19 should wait until they have recovered from acute illness and public health has told them they no longer need to isolate. It is important that you wait the full isolation period before getting the vaccine so that you do not expose people at your vaccination clinic to the virus. Please note that as new evidence and date about COVID-19 vaccines is available, our guidance around vaccines may change..

Why do I need to follow public health measures after I'm vaccinated?
➲ Some provincial restrictions remain in place to help stop the spread of COVID-19. The restrictions are made by the Provincial Health Officer (PHO) under the Public Health Act. It is important to follow restrictions, regardless of your vaccination status.

I have more questions. Where can I get trustworthy information?
➲ There is a lot of information available about COVID-19 and vaccines, but not all of it is reliable. Seek information from reputable sources like the B.C. Centre for Disease Control, Health Canada's 'Ask the Expert' video series, and the B.C. Government's COVID-19 website. If in doubt consult trusted fact-checking outlets like the International Fact-Checking Network and Science Up First.

Where can I find resources in other languages?
➲ The BC Centre for Disease Control has extensive resources in multiple languages. Find them online at [www.bccdc.ca](#). COVID-19 information translation services are also available in more than 140 languages at 1-888-268-4319.

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