

Interchangeability Process: COVID-19 Vaccine

Dose 2 Considerations – June 24, 2021

As per the BCCDC Immunization Manual:

“The vaccine series should be completed with the same COVID-19 vaccine product. If it is not possible to determine what product was used for the first dose, or if the same product is unavailable, the second dose may be given with an available mRNA product” (June 18, 2021)

“The two ChAdOx1-S vaccines are interchangeable within the vaccine series. NACI recommends that individuals who received a first dose of the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine may receive either AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine or an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) for their second dose, unless contraindicated” (June 18, 2021).

On June 24, 2021, it was announced that BC’s vaccine supply is changing with lower shipments of Pfizer and increased shipments of Moderna. This will impact vaccine administration:

- With this shift in supply, people who received Pfizer for their first dose will more than likely be offered Moderna for their second dose.
- For clients who received Pfizer for dose 1, they do have the option of cancelling and rebooking to try obtaining Pfizer at a later date, but there is no assurance that Pfizer will be available and based on what we now know about the supply of mRNA vaccine coming in, it will likely be Moderna.
- Clients who received AZ as Dose 1 can be booked to receive mRNA vaccine for Dose 2. Either Pfizer or Moderna is effective and recommended as a second dose, whichever is readily available at the clinic.
- It's better for clients to receive their second dose when it is available, with a product that is available, than to wait for the same vaccine product; 2 doses, either with same product or with interchanged product provides full protection.

If a client presents to your clinic for dose 2 and their dose 1 product is not available, please do the following:

1. Review the June 24, 2021 update to the [COVID-19 Vaccine Interchangeability InfoSheet](#) and [Practice Update: Vaccine Interchangeability](#)
2. If client refuses interchanged product document as follows:

▼ Action

Please select one of the options below.

Send to After Care

Defer Vaccination

* Reason for deferral

Vaccine Supply Issue ▼

* Additional Comments

Moderna not available at this clinic location; client is deferred to a later date or alternate clinic where Moderna is offered.]

*Pfizer remains the only approved COVID-19 vaccine for ages 12-17 years.