

## COVID-19 Vaccination. Choosing AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD or mRNA (Pfizer/Moderna) for people who received AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD

Individuals who received AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD for dose one have an option to receive AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD or an mRNA (Pfizer or Moderna) as their second dose.

### **Option 1: Choosing AstraZeneca as your second dose:**

AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine is available for those 18 and older. You are likely to experience lesser side effects after the second dose with the same vaccine than getting a different product by using mRNA vaccine. The second dose AstraZeneca should be given 8-12 weeks from dose one.

The risk of serious blood clots and/or bleeding reported after receiving the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine are much lower after the second dose. It is 1 per 600,000 recipients after dose 2.

### **Option 2: Choosing Pfizer or Moderna as your second dose:**

There is no risk of blood clots with mRNA vaccines. There is a possibility, however, of an increased chance of side effects when using mRNA as the second dose. These includes headache, fatigue and feeling generally ill. They are temporary and resolve without complications. These side effects can be managed by taking Tylenol (acetaminophen) or Advil (ibuprofen). The second dose of mRNA should be administered 8-12 weeks from dose one of AstraZeneca.

There are more studies taking place on using 'mix and match' COVID-19 vaccine schedules. What we do know is providing an mRNA vaccine after AstraZeneca vaccine will boost the immune response.

Resources: [BCCDC COVID-19 vaccination. 2nd dose choice for people who received AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD healthlinkbc covid-19 vaccine English & translation available](#)  
[COVID-19 vaccine aftercare English & translation available](#)