

GETTING THE COVID-19 VACCINE

The sooner Ontarians are vaccinated against COVID-19, the sooner we can start to recover from this terrible pandemic.

We will be protected from COVID-19, and our risk of serious illness, hospitalization or dying from the disease will be dramatically lower. Our health care system and schools will begin to function normally again. Businesses will reopen and people will get back to work.

The new variants of COVID-19 are much more contagious and becoming more common. This means it is more urgent than ever that everyone who can gets vaccinated as quickly as possible.

How you will know when you can get vaccinated

You will hear through several ways when you are eligible for a vaccine:

- The government and/or your local public health unit will issue public notices or run ads.
- Your local news media will report regularly on the vaccination plan.
- You may also have information mailed directly to your home.
- If you are one of those patients who might best receive your vaccine in your doctor's office, the doctor will contact you directly.

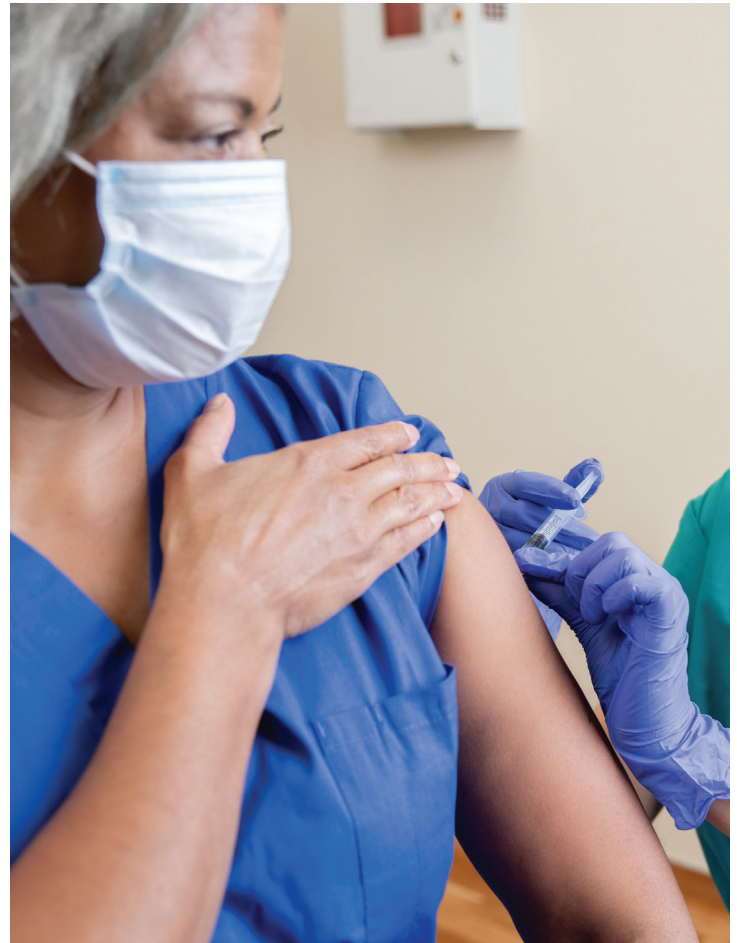
Take the first vaccine you are offered

All vaccine types available in Ontario have been approved by Health Canada. They are all effective and protect you against COVID-19, so there is no advantage in turning down the type of vaccine you are offered.

If you wait for a different type of vaccine, you may have to wait a very long time. In the meantime, you could become infected with this deadly disease and spread it to other people.

There may also only be one type of vaccine available in your area, which means you won't get vaccinated at all. This puts everyone at risk.

If too many people wait, this pandemic will never be over.



Watch for information from the government and your local public health unit

Your doctor is not able to provide any information about when you will receive your vaccine. Your best source of information is the news, the government, or your public health unit.

If your doctor does have information about the timing of your vaccine, they will contact you directly.

Calling your family doctor about when you will get the vaccine means less time for them to see other patients, review tests, prescribe medications, or make patient referrals to specialists.

Your family doctor had to delay many patient visits because of the pandemic, and is trying hard to catch up. Taking many calls about when patients might get the vaccine will mean even longer wait times for other patients to see their doctor. ■