

AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD Vaccine Information

AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine is available for frontline and essential workers age 30 and older (born in 1991 or earlier). This vaccine is highly effective at preventing both symptomatic COVID-19 infection as well as severe disease.

Cases of serious blood clots and/or bleeding have been reported after receiving the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine. The risk is about 4 cases in 1,000,000 vaccinated people. While this side effect is rare, it can be serious. Your risk of infection with COVID-19 is likely higher than this, but your risk of severe COVID-19 may be lower, particularly if you are a younger adult. Very few people 30-40 years of age have died from COVID-19 in British Columbia. Essential workers who choose not to receive an AstraZeneca vaccine will be offered either a Pfizer or Moderna vaccination by June 2021.

Everyone who receives an AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine should monitor for signs of blood clots/bleeding for 4 to 28 days following vaccination. Blood clots and/or bleeding are treatable when individuals seek medical care quickly. Signs and symptoms can include:

- severe headache that does not go away
- seizure
- difficulty moving part of your body
- blurry vision that does not go away
- difficulty speaking
- shortness of breath
- chest pain
- severe abdominal or back pain
- new severe swelling, pain, or colour change of an arm or a leg
- abnormal bruising or bleeding
- reddish or purple spots or blood blisters under the skin.

If you experience any of the above signs or symptoms, you should seek urgent medical care right away.