

## COVID-19 Vaccine: Clinic Reference for the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 Vaccine for Community Pharmacies and Medical Clinics

*This Clinic Reference is not intended to replace product specific vaccine references. Rather, it lists some frequently referred to information. Please refer to the product monograph, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) and the Manitoba government) website for additional up-to-date information and resources [www.manitoba.ca/covid19/vaccine/index.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/covid19/vaccine/index.html).*

Quick Reference Information for the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD<sup>1</sup> COVID-19 Vaccine (COVID-19 Vaccine, ChAdOx1-S [recombinant], viral vector vaccine)

**Product Monographs** (indications for use, ingredients, etc.):

- AstraZeneca: [www.manitoba.ca/asset\\_library/en/covidvaccine/astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine.pdf](http://www.manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/covidvaccine/astrazeneca-covid-19-vaccine.pdf)
- COVISHIELD: [www.manitoba.ca/asset\\_library/en/covidvaccine/covishield-pm.pdf](http://www.manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/covidvaccine/covishield-pm.pdf)

Refer to the **Clinical Practice Guidelines for Immunizers and Health Care Providers** ([www.manitoba.ca/asset\\_library/en/covidvaccine/clinical\\_practice\\_guidelines.pdf](http://www.manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/covidvaccine/clinical_practice_guidelines.pdf)) for information on:

- use in special populations (i.e., individuals who are immunosuppressed due to disease or treatment, have an autoimmune condition, are pregnant and/or breastfeeding)
- list of patients who require further consult before immunization
- viral vector vaccine evidence on efficacy, safety, eligibility criteria and NACI recommendations
- clinical practice questions and answers

### Key Points Summary

1. **Dosage:** 0.5 mL from multi-dose vial, IM in deltoid (3 mL syringe preferred due to 1 mL syringe shortage)
2. **Packaging:** multi-dose vial; 5 mL of solution in a 10-dose vial
  - Free of preservatives, thimerosal and latex
  - AZ should be colorless to slightly brown, clear to slightly opaque solution.
  - COVISHIELD is colorless to slightly clear to slightly opaque solution free from visible particles.
    - o Discard either brand if discolored or visible particles are observed.
3. **Schedule:** two (0.5 mL) doses given 4 to 12 weeks apart, with evidence that efficacy increases with longer dosing.
  - NOTE: Currently Manitoba is not booking appointments for second doses. The interval is likely to be four months however; more information will be provided as it becomes available.
  - Those starting immunosuppressive therapy may be on an alternate schedule (w/minimum intervals).
  - Interruption of a vaccine series resulting in a greater than recommended interval between doses does not require restarting the series.

<sup>1</sup> COVISHIELD (manufactured by the Serum Institute of India) and AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine (manufactured by AstraZeneca) are ChAdOx1-S recombinant vaccines developed by AstraZeneca and the University of Oxford. Health Canada has reviewed the manufacturing information for these vaccines and found them to be comparable.

4. **Age and priority group indications:** Health Canada approved this vaccine for persons aged 18 and older. Refer to the Manitoba eligibility criteria for up-to-date information on provincial eligibility. [www.manitoba.ca/covid19/vaccine/eligibility-criteria.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/covid19/vaccine/eligibility-criteria.html)

5. **Storage and handling:**

- Unopened multi-dose vial: store in a refrigerator at 2°C to 8°C. Do not freeze. Store in outer carton in order to protect from light.
  - Use the product before the expiration date on the vial label.
- Opened vial (after first puncture): 6 hours at room temperature (up to 30°C) or 48 hours refrigerated (2°C to 8°C).
  - Can re-refrigerate vial but cumulative storage time at room temperature cannot exceed 6 hours, and total cumulative storage time cannot exceed 48 hours. After this time, discard vial.
  - Post-puncture storage information also applies to vaccine drawn into syringes.

6. **Client teaching points:**

- Ensure informed consent. Provincial factsheets provide information on the materials risks and intended benefits: [www.manitoba.ca/covid19/vaccine/resources.html](http://www.manitoba.ca/covid19/vaccine/resources.html). If client/patient falls into a special population as identified in the following list, review pertinent information in **Clinical Practice Guidelines** with client/patient:
    - immunosuppressed due to disease or treatment
    - has an autoimmune condition
    - pregnant and/or breastfeeding
  - Second dose interval awareness
  - Before administration of another vaccine, wait at least 28 days
  - Expected and other reactions following immunization. Provide AEFI handout: [www.manitoba.ca/asset\\_library/en/covid/covid19\\_vaccine\\_reaction\\_factsheet.pdf](http://www.manitoba.ca/asset_library/en/covid/covid19_vaccine_reaction_factsheet.pdf)
  - Continue all recommended COVID-19 prevention strategies (e.g., staying home when sick, practicing physical distancing, etc.) as there is very limited data regarding asymptomatic transmission following immunization.
  - Accessing an immunization record; online portal at <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/test-results/> or by contacting local public health offices.
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