

## Alberta COVID-19 Pharmacy Immunization Program (ACPIP) update—April 1, 2021

Beginning in early April, pharmacies will be able to order AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine from pharmacy wholesale distributors if they:

- have submitted an ACPIP enrollment form, and
- have not been selected to administer vaccine previously.

Pharmacies meeting this criteria were notified by email earlier today.

It is anticipated that there will be approximately 175,000 doses of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 that will become available for pharmacies to order from pharmacy wholesale distributors. Pharmacies will be solely responsible for the administration of the incoming AstraZeneca supply—Alberta Health Services will not be receiving supply.

If your pharmacy was notified by email earlier today and does not plan to order AstraZeneca supply, please notify Alberta Blue Cross at [PACVP@ab.bluecross.ca](mailto:PACVP@ab.bluecross.ca). This will assist in Alberta Health's understanding of vaccine distribution and uptake across the province, and support decisions regarding order quantity limits.

As AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine is a fridge stable product that must be stored at +2°C to +8°C, pharmacies will be able to order vaccine through their usual and customary wholesale distributor. Please only order from one wholesale distributor, where your primary account is held. Ordering from more than one distributor may result in removal from the ACPIP.

If your pharmacy has already been selected to immunize with Moderna or Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, do not order AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine. As supplies increase and become more stable in the future, allowing all ACPIP participating pharmacies to order AstraZeneca vaccine supply will be considered.

### Eligibility for AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine

A portion of **Phase 2D** individuals will be eligible to receive the AstraZeneca vaccine:

- Albertans **aged 55 to 64 without chronic conditions**. (Those with chronic conditions fall within Phase 2B and should receive Pfizer or Moderna vaccine)
- Across Canada, administration of the AstraZeneca vaccine is **being paused for those under the age of 55** while more investigation happens on Vaccine-Induced Prothrombotic Immune Thrombocytopenia (VIPIT). Additional information can be found at [www.ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-covid-19-immunization.php](http://www.ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-covid-19-immunization.php).
- The Astra Zeneca vaccine remains a good choice for Albertans age 55 to 64 based on their age-related risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19. Albertans would otherwise have to wait several months to access a vaccine for their protection.

For assistance with benefit or claim inquiries, please contact an Alberta Blue Cross Pharmacy Services Provider Relations contact centre representative at

**780-498-8370** (Edmonton and area)

**403-294-4041** (Calgary and area)

**1-800-361-9632** (toll free)

**FAX 780-498-8406** (Edmonton and area)

**FAX 1-877-305-9911** (toll free)

Alberta Blue Cross offers online access to current Pharmacy Benefacts and supplemental claiming information to assist with the submission of your direct bill drug claims.

Visit [ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php](http://ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php)

