

# COVID-19 VACCINE

Getting a COVID-19 vaccination is one of the most important and effective things Ontarians can do to stop the pandemic.

## How do the COVID-19 vaccines work?

Vaccines tell your body how to make a harmless protein found in the virus and start building antibodies that know how to fight the real virus if you come in contact with it.

## Is the vaccine safe?

All vaccine candidates are heavily scrutinized in clinical trials and by Health Canada. The approval process is rigorous. Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada have approved four vaccines for use in Canada: Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca, and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson)



## What are the side effects?

## Will the vaccine interact with my methadone?

- You can expect to feel similar to what you feel after receiving the flu vaccine. In the short term, you may experience minor symptoms such as a headache, fever or localized swelling or pain at the injection site.
- The vaccine will **not** interact with your opioid agonist treatment and it's safe to continue taking your methadone, suboxone, kadian or other prescribed medications as normal.

## Where will we go to get the vaccine?

Mass vaccination sites, family doctors' offices and pharmacies are all administering COVID-19 vaccines.

Call **1-888-999-6488** or visit **covid-19.ontario.ca** for more information.



 **trueNorth**  
ADDICTION MEDICINE PROGRAM

Information sourced from the Ontario Medical Association and Ministry of Health  
<https://www.askontariodoctors.ca/covidvaccine>  
<https://health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/ltc/covid19.aspx>