

## COVID-19 Vaccine (ChAdOx1-S [recombinant])

**AstraZeneca COVID-19 Vaccine**  
**COVISHIELD**

**Supplier: AstraZeneca**  
**Supplier: Verity Pharmaceuticals**

### INDICATIONS:

- Individuals 18 years of age and older <sup>A</sup>
- Vaccination will occur in phases. Sequencing of populations for whom the vaccine is currently indicated in British Columbia is available on the BCCDC [COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility](#) page.

These vaccines are not approved for use in those less than 18 years of age.

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### DOSES AND SCHEDULE:

Adults 18 years of age and older: 2 doses given as 0.5 mL IM, 4 months apart. <sup>B, C</sup>

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### ADMINISTRATION:

- No reconstitution required.

### Storage and Handling:

- Unopened multidose vial:
  - +2°C to + 8°C up to the end of its expiry date, kept in the original packaging and protected from light. Do not freeze.
- Opened multidose vial:
  - After first vial puncture, the vaccine is stable at room temperature (up to +30°C) for **6 hours** OR at +2°C to + 8°C for **48 hours**.
  - After the first puncture, the vial can be re-refrigerated, but the cumulative storage time at room temperature must not exceed 6 hours, and the total cumulative refrigerated storage time must not exceed 48 hours. After this time, the vial must be discarded.
  - Ensure that the vial is clearly labelled with the date and time of first vial entry.

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### BOOSTER DOSES:

No booster doses are recommended at this time.

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### SEROLOGICAL TESTING:

Serological testing is not recommended before or after immunization.

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### CONTRAINDICATIONS:

1. History of anaphylactic reaction to a previous dose of the vaccine or to any component of the vaccine.

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<sup>A</sup> Although NACI recommends the use of the vaccine in those 18-64 years of age, the vaccine is authorized for use in those 18 years of age and older.

<sup>B</sup> The two ChAdOx1-S vaccines are interchangeable within the vaccine series, however they are not interchangeable with other COVID-19 vaccines (e.g., mRNA vaccines).

<sup>C</sup> While the approved minimum interval between dose 1 and 2 is 4 weeks, the preferred shortest interval is 12 weeks. As such, an acceptable range for administration of the second dose is 12 weeks to 4 months after the first dose. If administration of the second dose is delayed beyond 4 months, the second dose should be provided as soon as possible and the series does not need to be restarted.

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### PRODUCT COMPONENTS:

Potential allergens: polysorbate 80.

Other components: disodium edetate dihydrate, ethanol, L-histidine, L-histidine hydrochloride monohydrate, magnesium chloride hexahydrate, sucrose.

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### PRECAUTIONS:

- For the following populations, a complete COVID-19 vaccine series may be offered to individuals in the authorized age group if a risk assessment deems that the benefits outweigh the potential risks for the individual, and if informed consent includes discussion about the absence of evidence on the use of COVID-19 vaccine in these populations:
  - immunosuppressed due to disease or treatment
  - those with an autoimmune condition <sup>A</sup>
  - pregnancy and breastfeeding <sup>B</sup>
- For individuals with suspected hypersensitivity or non-anaphylactic allergy to COVID-19 vaccine components, consultation with an allergist is advised. If there is a specific concern about a possible allergy to a component of the COVID-19 vaccine being administered, an extended period of observation post-vaccination of 30 minutes may be warranted; alternately, the vaccine can be administered in an emergency room setting, also with a prolonged observation period.
- Wait until symptoms of an acute illness are resolved before vaccinating with COVID-19 vaccine to differentiate symptoms of illness from vaccine side effects.
- There is insufficient evidence on the receipt of both a COVID-19 vaccine and any monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma for treatment or prevention of COVID-19. Therefore, COVID-19 vaccination should be deferred for at least 90 days as a precautionary measure to avoid potential interference of the antibody therapy with vaccine-induced immune response.
- Due to the theoretical risk that viral vector vaccines may temporarily affect cell-mediated immunity, resulting in false-negative TST or IGRA test results, these tests should be administered and read before COVID-19 immunization or delayed for at least 4 weeks after immunization. COVID-19 immunization may take place at any time after all steps of tuberculin skin testing have been completed.

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### SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

- COVID-19 vaccines should not be given simultaneously with other live or inactivated vaccines. However, if a COVID-19 vaccine is inadvertently administered at the same time as another vaccine, neither dose should be repeated.
- Wait a period of at least 14 days after the administration of each ChAdOx1-S vaccine dose before the administration of another vaccine (except in the case where another vaccine is required for post-exposure prophylaxis) due to the elicitation of an inflammatory cytokine response.

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<sup>A</sup> For more information see the [CRA Recommendation on COVID-19 Vaccination in Persons with Autoimmune Rheumatic Disease](#).

<sup>B</sup> For more information see the [SOGC Statement on COVID-19 Vaccination in Pregnancy](#)

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### **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS (continued):**

- Wait for a period of at least 14 days after the administration of another vaccine before administering a COVID-19 vaccine to prevent erroneous attribution of an adverse event following immunization to a particular vaccine.
- A complete series of COVID-19 vaccine may be offered to individuals without contraindications who have recovered from PCR-confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection.
- Recipients should practice public health measures for prevention of SARS-CoV-2 infection and transmission regardless of vaccination with COVID-19 vaccine, at this time.

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### **ADVERSE EVENTS:**

**Local:** pain, swelling, redness, pruritus

**Systemic:** fatigue, headache, myalgia, chills, arthralgia, fever, malaise, nausea.

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### **REFERENCES:**

1. [AstraZeneca product monograph](#)
2. [COVISHIELD product monograph](#)
3. [National Advisory Committee on Immunization: Recommendations on the use of COVID-19 Vaccine\(s\)](#)