

The COVID-19 vaccine: five things you need to know

Ontario's vaccination rollout is well underway. You can protect yourself, your loved ones, and your community by getting vaccinated. Here's more information about the COVID-19 vaccines.

1

No steps were skipped in developing these vaccines. While the COVID-19 vaccines were made available quickly, they were developed using mRNA research and technology used by scientists since the early 1990s. This research is well developed and the technology has been used effectively and is proven safe and reliable.

2

COVID-19 vaccines will not give you COVID-19. Unlike other vaccines, COVID-19 vaccines don't contain the virus itself. Instead, these types of vaccines teach our cells how to make a protein that will trigger an immune response and create antibodies.

3

The vaccines have been reviewed and approved by Health Canada. In order to be used in Canada, all drugs, including vaccines, must meet the regulatory requirements for safety, efficacy and quality. Usually this review process can take a long time because new drugs and vaccines get added to the bottom of the list, and must wait their turn for review. However, these vaccines are so important they went right to the front of the line, allowing the process to be much quicker than usual.

4

Two doses deliver stronger immunity. It is important to receive both doses of the vaccine to complete the vaccine series. Protection offered by the first dose helps your body build immunity and the second dose boosts your immunity. For example, the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines are 94-95% effective after two doses.

5

When a large percentage of the population becomes immune to COVID-19, the spread of the virus will slow down or stop. You can protect yourself, your loved ones and your community by getting the COVID-19 vaccine.