

# **COVID-19 Vaccination Education Module: Making an Informed Decision**

Provided by



with assistance from



# Purpose of the COVID-19 Vaccine Education Module



COMMITMENT TO  
KEEPING OUR  
COMMUNITIES  
SAFE



ALONG WITH THE  
EXISTING  
MEASURES, THE  
COVID-19  
VACCINE IS THE  
MOST EFFECTIVE  
WAY TO PREVENT  
COVID-19  
PREVENTION



THIS EDUCATION  
SESSION IS  
INTENDED TO  
PROVIDE  
INFORMATION ON  
COVID-19 AND  
THE VACCINE

# COVID-19 Impact

## Infection Rate:

- Over 219 million worldwide have been infected
- Disproportionate rates among visible minorities

## Death Rate:

- Over 4.6 million deaths worldwide
- Variants of concern - 4x rate of ICU admission, 2x the risk of death

## Health System and Society:

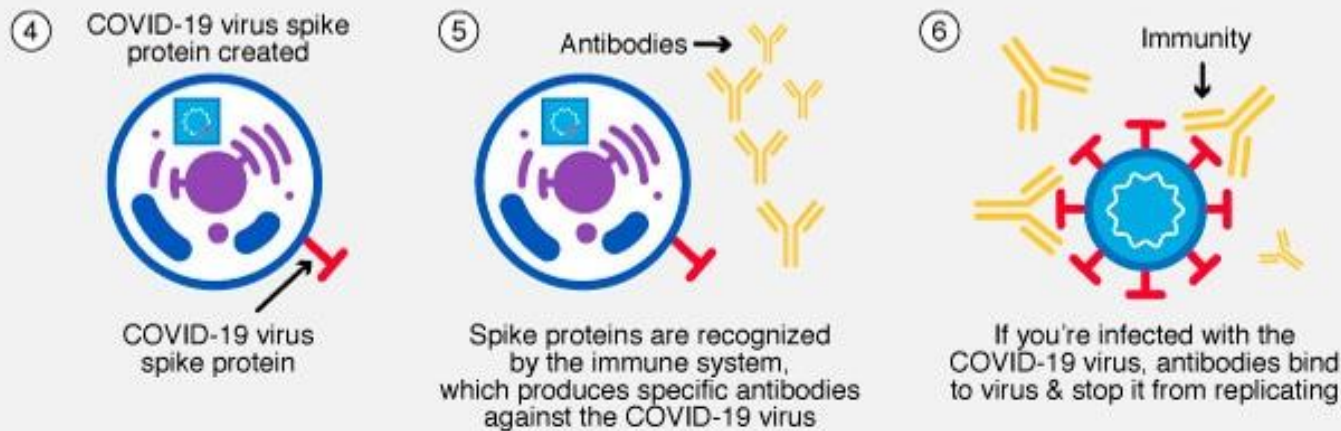
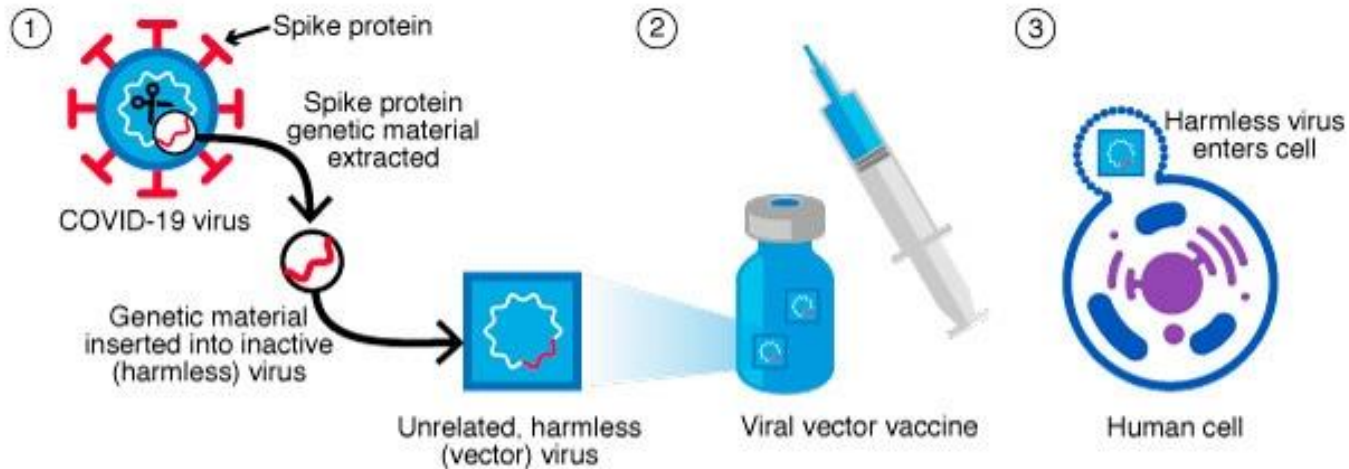
- Over 250,000 surgeries delayed in Ontario
- Restrictions on daily life and contact with friends and family

# Benefits of COVID-19 Vaccination

- ▶ The vaccine significantly reduces your risk of becoming infected with COVID-19.
- ▶ If you do get COVID-19 after vaccination, symptoms will be less severe.
- ▶ Vaccination helps achieve community immunity within the population as we all depend on each other.
- ▶ It's your best defense to protect yourself and your contacts.
- ▶ Your vaccine might stop the infection from reaching someone who won't survive it.



# How the COVID-19 Vaccines Work



# Do COVID-19 Vaccines Work?

Vaccines have a  
70-95% efficacy  
rate

Canada is  
currently around  
65% vaccinated

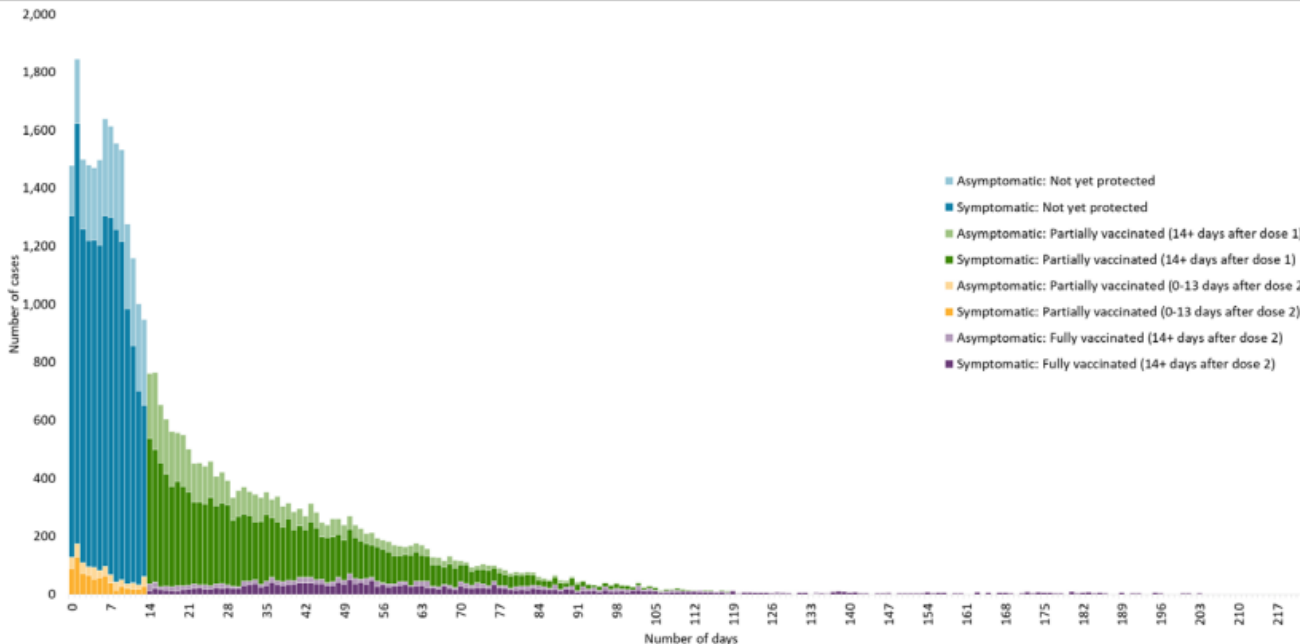
Less than 1% of  
those vaccinated  
become sick with  
COVID-19

Less likely to  
transmit to  
others

In Ontario, 88% of  
those in ICU with  
COVID-19 are  
unvaccinated

# Vaccine Effectiveness

Confirmed post-vaccination cases by COVID-19 by number of days between dose administration and symptom onset: Ontario, December 14, 2020 to August 21, 2021



# Is the COVID-19 Vaccine Safe?

## Safety Checks in Developmental Process:

- All steps to evaluate safety, efficacy and quality were met in the approval process
- There were no serious side effects in the clinical trials

## Monitoring:

- As of Aug 28, 2021: Over 53 million doses in Canada, only 3768 serious side effects were reported (0.007%)

## Mild Side Effects:

- Pain at the injection site, fatigue, headache, chills, fever or muscle pain (especially after 2<sup>nd</sup> dose)



# Is the COVID-19 Vaccine Safe?

## Safety Checks in Developmental Process:

- “All COVID-19 vaccines authorized in Canada are proven safe, effective and of high quality” (canada.ca)

## Are They Approved:

- Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna are approved by Health Canada
- Pfizer-BioNTech was FDA approved on August 23, 2021

## Why were they approved so fast:

- 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 however, these vaccines are so important to our society they went right to the front of the line, allowing the process to be quicker than usual.

# Additional Vaccine Safety Information

## Bell's Palsy

- Clinical trials: 4 out of 22,000
- Consistent with expected rate in general population
- Does not suggest it was caused by the vaccine

## Anaphylaxis

- Reported at rate of 0.004%
- Rate consistent with other common vaccines
- Much lower rate than common medications like penicillin

## Blood Clots:

- For AstraZeneca, very rare: 1 per 55,000 first doses administered
- COVID-19 illness increases the risk of blood clots

# Risks of Not Getting the Vaccine

## General Public Death Rates

- As of September 9, 2021 in Canada, over 1.53 million COVID-19 infection cases with over 27,000 deaths.
- Death rate at 1.7%

## Long Term Illness Rates

- Many COVID-19 patients have at least one persistent symptom 6 months after infection
- This is called 'Long COVID'

## Not Getting Back to Normal

- Travel restrictions in place
- Limitations on gatherings with family and friends

# Why should I get a COVID-19 Vaccine?

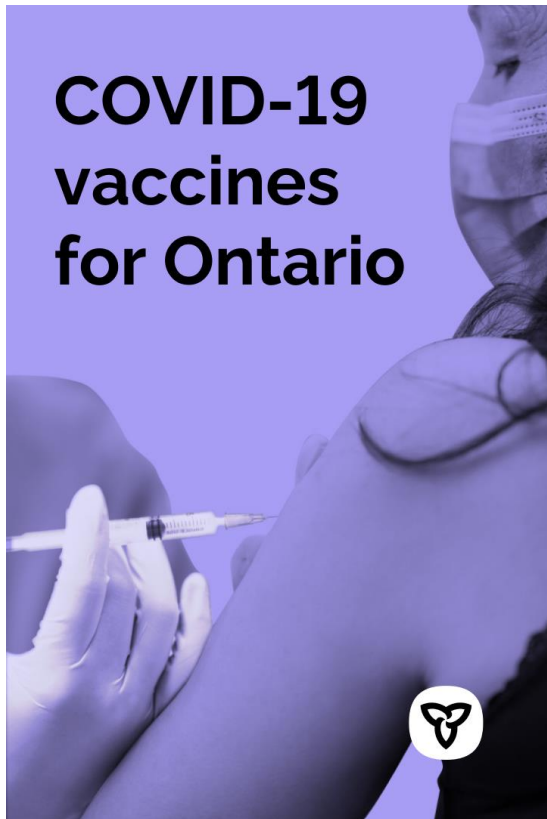
## Herd Immunity

- The pandemic will not end until a large majority of Canadians are vaccinated.
- The vaccine is the only foreseeable way to end the COVID-19 pandemic.
- While the vaccine will protect each of us individually, the primary goal of a vaccine program is to immunize a large majority of the population so that COVID-19 can no longer spread.

## For Others

- Even if you are not high-risk, there are other individuals in your community who may be high-risk and immunocompromised, which means their immune systems are not strong enough to receive a vaccine.
- When a large majority of the community is vaccinated, this protects individuals who are immunocompromised because it reduces the chances that a virus can spread throughout the community and infect that immunocompromised individual who could not receive the vaccine.

# Book Your Vaccine Today!



**Book your  
appointment today to  
receive the COVID-19  
Vaccine:**

**[www.covid-19.Ontario.ca/book-vaccine](http://www.covid-19.Ontario.ca/book-vaccine)**