

After Vaccination Frequently Asked Questions

Everyone who has received a first dose or both doses of COVID-19 vaccine **MUST continue to follow all public health measures at this time.**

This includes wearing a face covering (mask) in an indoor business or organization, staying 6 feet from those outside your household, screening for symptoms, washing hands frequently, and isolating when told to by public health.

Why do I need to continue to follow public health measures even though I'm vaccinated?

Vaccine protects you, but maybe not others.

COVID-19 vaccines are very effective at preventing people from becoming sick with COVID-19. All authorized vaccines have been shown to offer protection against symptomatic confirmed COVID-19, but more data is needed to know if vaccines prevent people who show no symptoms from spreading COVID-19.

This means the vaccines will protect those who receive it from getting very sick with COVID-19, but it is possible that someone who has been vaccinated could still pass the virus on to others.

Other factors, including how many people get vaccinated and how the virus is spreading in communities, also affect decisions around what measures everyone needs to take to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Also, even after completing a full series, no vaccine works perfectly – that means that a small proportion of people may not develop an immune response. As long as COVID is still circulating at high levels in Ontario, it is important to continue public health measures, even if you are vaccinated.

Rules are still in place

- Current public health recommendations haven't changed. Provincial legislation, local Class orders and instructions regarding wearing a face covering, physical distancing and/or isolating when told to by public health still stand.
- Vaccination status does not qualify as an exemption to wearing a face covering in the provincial regulations.
- Huron Perth Public Health has a Section 22 Class Order in place to ensure Huron-Perth residents who have been told to self-isolate by public health or a health care provider are doing so. Vaccination status does not exempt someone from this order.

Vaccinations mean the beginning of the end of the pandemic, but we are not at the end just yet!

What if I experience side effects right after my vaccination that could also be COVID-19 symptoms?

After vaccination, if you experience side effects that are the same as COVID-19 symptoms including: tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, and low fever, you must stay home and away from others (isolate), even if you think these are side effects are from the vaccine.

- If your side effects start within 24 hours and go away within 48 hours after the side effects start, you don't have to keep isolating. Unless you've been told to isolate for other reasons, you must keep isolating.
- If your side effects do not resolve and/or you have other symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (cough, shortness of breath etc), seek assessment, which may include testing.

Do I still need to wear a face covering and maintain 6 feet distance from those outside my household after I've received my vaccination?

YES

- It is possible that someone who has been given a COVID-19 vaccine could develop an asymptomatic (no symptoms) COVID-19 infection and pass it to others.
- Also, even after completing a full series, no vaccine works perfectly – that means that a small proportion of people will not develop an immune response. As long as COVID is still circulating at high levels in Ontario, it is important to continue public health measures, even if you are vaccinated.

I've received my vaccination, do I still need to isolate if I'm identified as a high-risk contact OR if someone in my household is identified as a high-risk contact?

YES

- Someone who has received a COVID-19 vaccine could potentially still spread the virus to others. Until we know more about this, it's important to continue to self-isolate.
- Also, even after completing a full series, no vaccine works perfectly – that means that a small proportion of people will not develop an immune response.

- Please note that there is a Section 22 Order issued by the Huron Perth Medical Officer of Health to ensure Huron-Perth residents who have been told to self-isolate by public health or a health care provider are doing so. Vaccination status does not exempt someone from this order.

Why are some areas in the United States changing their public health measures?

- Regional regulations depend on many factors, including how the virus is spreading in communities, number of people vaccinated (with first dose or fully vaccinated), and what we currently know about effectiveness of vaccine from preventing transmission of the COVID-19 virus.
- At this time, the National Advisory Committee on Immunizations (NACI) in Canada, recommends that all individuals, whether vaccinated or not, continue to practice public health measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- Public health measures will continue to be in place until we know more about how long the protection given by COVID-19 vaccinations lasts, and how well they help to reduce transmission of COVID-19.

Do I still need to complete screening before work, school, etc. after I've received my vaccination?

YES

- Vaccines that require two doses, require both doses to reach maximum effectiveness. It is still possible to come in contact with the COVID-19 virus and develop symptoms if you have received your first dose of COVID-19 vaccine. It is also possible you were exposed to the virus before your body developed some immunity from receiving the vaccine.
- Also, even after completing a full series, no vaccine works perfectly – that means that a small proportion of people will not develop an immune response.
- Someone who has received a COVID-19 vaccine could potentially still spread the virus to others.