

Site C COVID-19 vaccine FAQ for Site C workers



March 18, 2021

Why are industrial projects like Site C being prioritized for COVID-19 vaccines?

- Northern Health has identified industrial sites as a vaccination priority and are facilitating this effort as a complement to the existing ongoing immunization program targeting the general population.
- B.C.'s supply of AstraZeneca – SII Covishield (“AstraZeneca”) is being targeted to large industrial project sites, including where workers live or work in congregate settings.
- Northern Health’s first priorities are workforces of LNG Canada, Coastal GasLink, Trans Mountain Pipeline, Rio Tinto Alcan and Site C.
- Immunizing workers in these settings helps protect workers and communities around the industrial projects, including many remote and Indigenous communities.

Who is eligible to get these COVID-19 vaccinations?

- All individuals working on Site C who are based locally or required to travel to the construction site for currently approved or active work, are eligible for this workplace vaccination initiative. This includes workers on dam-site or off dam-site, and workers from out of province or outside of Canada.
- This workplace vaccination does not extend to workers’ families, who will be immunized based on B.C.’s broader age-based immunization plan.
- If you are uncertain if you qualify for this workplace vaccination initiative, please contact your supervisor or COVID coordinator.
- If you are a B.C. resident, you will be registered in the B.C. provincial health system and receive an immunization record of your vaccination.
- Workers from out of province or outside of Canada, will also receive an immunization record to take with you to your home location.

Will COVID-19 vaccinations be mandatory for Site C workers?

- Vaccinations are not mandatory.
- Federal and provincial health authorities across Canada encourage all adult Canadians to get vaccinated, as one of the strongest measures to protect yourself and the health and safety of your family, friends, colleagues and communities.
- As with all medical matters, your decision on vaccination is confidential.

Which COVID-19 vaccine are industrial projects getting?

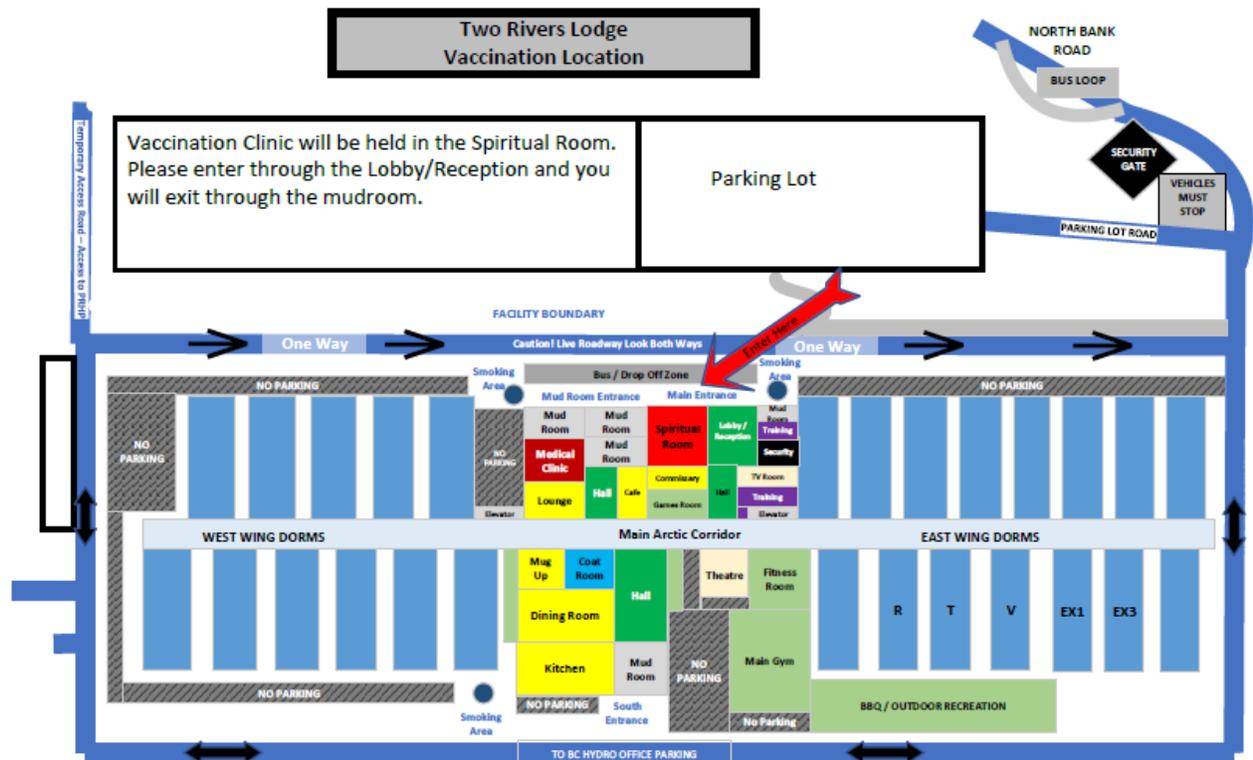
- Industrial projects will be receiving the AstraZeneca vaccine.
- If you receive an AstraZeneca vaccine for your first dose, you must also receive an AstraZeneca vaccine for your second dose.

Is the AstraZeneca vaccine safe?

- AstraZeneca, as with other vaccines available in British Columbia, has been reviewed and approved by Health Canada. Health Canada's independent drug authorization process is recognized around the world for its high standards and rigorous review.
- Health Canada has approved the use of AstraZeneca for all Canadians over 18 years of age.
- The Canadian National Advisory Committee on Immunization, Health Canada, and the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) all confirm the AstraZeneca vaccine is safe and effective in protecting people against COVID-19, especially from severe symptoms, hospitalizations and death.
- Information links you may find useful include:
 - [BCCDC - COVID-19 Vaccine \(copy attached\)](#)
 - [BCCDC - COVID-19 Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions](#)
 - [Health Canada - AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine: What you should know](#)
 - [National Advisory Committee on Immunization - Recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccines](#)
- Additionally, our onsite medical clinic (778-844-0281) is available to discuss any vaccine questions or concerns you may have.
- If you have any additional health concerns, please discuss these with your health practitioner.

Where do I go to get my vaccine?

- ATCO will be reconfiguring the Spiritual Room located near the front entrance to the ATCO Two Rivers Lodge as a vaccination centre.
- The room will be set up with an intake area where clinic staff will complete a screening questionnaire and answer your questions before you go into the vaccination area (see map below).



How will COVID-19 vaccinations be rolled out at Site C?

- Our onsite International SOS medical clinic will be administering and managing COVID-19 vaccinations for Site C.
- The clinical staff have been working closely with Northern Health on site preparedness, and been trained and certified in the administration of AstraZeneca vaccines.
- After receiving your vaccination, you will be seated in a waiting area and monitored by clinic staff for at least 15 minutes. The onsite clinic is well prepared to deal with the unlikely event of an allergic or medical reaction.
- You will also be provided with a copy of the BCCDC aftercare instructions http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID-19_vaccine/VaccinationAftercare.pdf
- If you have questions about a possible reaction to the vaccine, you can contact the medical clinic or provincial health line at 8-1-1.
- Please continue to report any COVID-like symptoms after vaccination to the medical clinic, who will assess next steps for you.
- Please bring your personal ID to the clinic.
- Also, please bring your B.C. Care Card or equivalent Provincial Health Number (PHN) from other provinces, to be registered in the provincial system. You will still be able to receive the vaccine if you do not have a health card, or if you do not have it with you at the time.

When do the vaccinations start? How do I sign up?

- We expect to start vaccinating Site C workers as described above by Saturday, March 20.
- Each Site C employer will work directly with their own workforce to identify workers who intend to be vaccinated and schedule those workers into available timeslots.

Will I get paid if I am scheduled to get my vaccination during my shift?

- Please discuss this with your respective employers.

I've heard the COVID-19 vaccinations are going to expire soon. Will there be enough?

- Northern Health is working closely with major industrial projects in health region to manage supply and demand of the 15,000 currently allocated vaccines. They are confident there will be enough vaccine to cover anticipated worker vaccinations before the vaccines expire.
- The next couple of weeks will be a fast-tracked, first phase of worker vaccinations. Not all shift rotations or Site C workers will have an opportunity to be vaccinated during this initial phase.
- Site C is in early discussions to understand and respond to provincial and regional strategies for ongoing vaccine prioritization.

Does AstraZeneca require two doses? If so, how do I get my second dose?

- Yes, AstraZeneca requires two doses taken about 16 weeks apart.
- BC Hydro intends to work closely with Northern Health on any ongoing vaccination program for Site C, which includes administering second doses when the time comes.

- Site C workers based in the Peace Region will be able to get their second doses at site, or at local community vaccination locations.
- Individuals no longer on the project, or no longer working in the Peace Region, will be able to get second doses in their home locations, including other provinces besides B.C.
- Retaining your immunization record, which shows the date and location of your first shot, is key to ensuring straightforward access to the second dose, no matter where you live.

Should I get the vaccine if I have already had COVID-19?

- As per the BCCDC, people who are currently sick with COVID-19 should wait until they have recovered, and the on-site medical clinic or public health has told them they no longer need to isolate. It is important that you wait the full isolation period before getting the vaccine so as to not expose people at your vaccination clinic to COVID-19.
- If you had COVID-19 you should still get the vaccine once you have recovered. This is because you may not be immune to the virus that causes COVID-19 and you could get infected again.
- You do not need to get a COVID-19 antibody test before getting your vaccine.

Once vaccinated, can I relax the COVID-19 measures at Site C?

- Site C will continue to follow all Provincial Health directives in accordance with the Industrial Projects Restart Order and Industrial Camps Order.
- Until B.C. Provincial Health is confident COVID-19 incident rates are under control, and British Columbians have achieved enough immunization protection to protect people around us, COVID-19 measures will be required.
- These measures include physical distancing, wearing masks, washing hands regularly, and restricting access to local communities if staying in camp.
- We do expect to continue to safely reopen spaces in the camp such as more gym facilities and social spaces.



COVID-19 Vaccines

Immunization has saved more lives in Canada in the last 50 years than any other health measure.

What are COVID-19 vaccines?

COVID-19 vaccines protect against infection from the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) that causes COVID-19. The vaccines cause your body to produce antibodies that will help protect you from getting sick if exposed to the virus. The vaccines are approved by Health Canada.

Who should get the vaccines?

Due to limited supplies, the vaccines are initially only being provided to those who are at increased risk of exposure to the virus, and those most at risk of serious complications due to age or certain underlying health conditions. As more vaccine becomes available, others will be able to get the vaccine based on their relative risk of exposure and serious complications. Information on COVID-19 vaccine eligibility can be found on the BCCDC website: www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine/eligibility

If you had, or may have had, COVID-19 you should still get the vaccine. This is because you may not be immune to the virus that causes COVID-19 and could get infected and sick again.

How are the vaccines given?

The vaccines are given by injection as a series of 2 doses. It is important to get both doses of the vaccine for full protection. Speak with your immunization provider about when you should get your second dose.

It is important to keep a record of all immunizations received. Be sure to bring your immunization record with you when returning for your second dose.

What should I do after I get the vaccine?

After you get the vaccine, continue to follow public health recommendations, such as:

- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer
- Physical distance

- Wear a mask where required

You should not receive any other vaccines until 14 days after a dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

What are the benefits of the vaccines?

The vaccines are the best way to protect you against COVID-19, which is a serious and sometimes fatal disease. In clinical trials, those who received a vaccine were 63% to 95% less likely to become sick with COVID-19 and were almost completely protected against severe illness (hospitalization and death). When you get immunized, you help protect others as well, including those who are unable to get the vaccine.

What are the possible reactions after the vaccines?

Vaccines are very safe. It is much safer to get the vaccine than to get COVID-19. The vaccines are not live virus vaccines and cannot give you COVID-19. Common reactions to the vaccines may include soreness, redness, swelling and itchiness where the vaccine was given. For some people, these reactions may show up 8 or more days after getting the vaccine. Other reactions may include tiredness, headache, fever, chills, muscle or joint soreness, swollen lymph nodes under the armpit, nausea and vomiting. These reactions are mild and generally last 1 to 2 days. If you have concerns about any symptoms you develop after receiving the vaccine, speak with your health-care provider or call **8-1-1** for advice.

Serious side effects due to the vaccines were not seen in the clinical trials. The people who received the vaccines in the clinical trials continue to be monitored for any longer-term side effects. A number of processes are in place in Canada to monitor the safety of the vaccines as more people get immunized.

Acetaminophen (e.g. Tylenol®) or ibuprofen (e.g. Advil®) can be taken for fever or soreness. ASA (e.g. Aspirin®) should not be given to anyone under 18 years of age due to the risk of Reye Syndrome.

For information on Reye Syndrome, see [HealthLinkBC File #84 Reye Syndrome](#).

It is important to stay in the clinic for 15 minutes after getting any vaccine because about 1 in a million people can have a life-threatening allergic reaction called anaphylaxis. This may include hives, difficulty breathing, or swelling of the throat, tongue or lips. Should this reaction occur, your health-care provider is prepared to treat it. Emergency treatment includes administration of epinephrine (adrenaline) and transfer by ambulance to the nearest emergency department. If symptoms develop after you leave the clinic, call **9-1-1** or your local emergency number.

Always report serious or unexpected reactions to your health-care provider.

Who should not get the vaccine?

You should not get the vaccine if you have a serious allergy (anaphylaxis) to:

- Polyethylene glycol (PEG) which is in both the Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccines. PEG can be found in some cosmetics, skin care products, laxatives, cough syrups, and bowel preparation products for colonoscopy. PEG can be an additive in some processed foods and drinks but no cases of anaphylaxis to PEG in foods and drinks have been reported.
- Polysorbate 80 which is in the AstraZeneca/Verity Pharmaceuticals vaccines. It is also found in medical preparations (e.g., vitamin oils, tablets and anticancer agents) and cosmetics
- A previous dose of a COVID-19 vaccine or to any part of the vaccine

Tell your health-care provider if you have had anaphylaxis but no cause was found after seeing an allergy specialist, or if you had anaphylaxis before and did not get seen by an allergy specialist

Are there additional considerations to getting the vaccine?

Speak with your health care provider if you:

- Have an immune system weakened by disease or medical treatment
- Have an autoimmune condition

- Are pregnant, may be pregnant or are planning to become pregnant
- Are breastfeeding
- Have received a monoclonal antibody or convalescent plasma for treatment or prevention of COVID-19
- Have received a vaccine in the last 14 days
- Have symptoms of COVID-19

If you have a new illness preventing you from your regular activities, you should wait until you have recovered. This will help to distinguish side effects of the vaccine from worsening of your illness.

What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is an infection of the airways and lungs caused by the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus. Symptoms of COVID-19 can include cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, tiredness and loss of smell or taste. While some people with COVID-19 may have no symptoms or only mild symptoms, others can require hospitalization and may die. Serious illness is more common in those who are older and those with certain chronic health conditions such as diabetes, heart disease or lung disease. For some people, symptoms of COVID-19 can last for weeks or longer. The long-term effects of COVID-19 on a person's health are unknown.

How is COVID-19 spread?

The virus that causes COVID-19 is spread from person to person by coughing, sneezing, talking and singing. It can also be spread by touching an object or surface with the virus on it and then touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

For more information on COVID-19 vaccines, visit BCCDC's COVID-19 vaccine page www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine



BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority

For more HealthLinkBC File topics, visit www.HealthLinkBC.ca/healthfiles or your local public health unit. For non-emergency health information and advice in B.C. visit www.HealthLinkBC.ca or call **8-1-1** (toll-free). For the deaf and hard of hearing, call **7-1-1**. Translation services are available in more than 130 languages on request.