



The @ab_vax Guide to booking a COVID19 vaccine in Alberta

So you're eligible for a COVID vaccine in Alberta along with a million or so of your closest friends. Let's get you that shot!

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Before we start

- Don't panic. If you don't get an appointment today we'll have more soon!
- Be kind to pharmacy staff and AHS staff. They are working really hard and want you to get vaccinated too!
- We don't work for AHS, this is just what we've learned helping thousands of people book vaccine appointments. Please let us know if you spot any errors!

Booking at AHS clinics

AHS clinics are located all over the province. At an AHS clinic for your first dose, you'll receive either a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine (Pfizer only for 12-17) but you won't know ahead of time which of the two it is if you're over 18.

We don't know yet how booking will work for the expanded eligibility for second shots on June 14th and 28th, but here's how it worked on first shot eligibility expansion days. Note that they're also planning to add pharmacy booking to the central system at...some point. We'll update when we know more. [Update: [they delayed it.](#)]

We're anticipating second shots for people who booked in April to open early, on June 10th. If this goes down the same way it did for people who got their first shots in March, they'll open the AHS queue at 2:30PM and start letting people book after the announcement at

3:30PM. Follow us on Twitter for updates on whether that's the case! Everything else will be the same as below, just happening at 2:30PM instead of 7AM.

AHS online booking typically starts at 8AM. They typically open the queue on new eligibility days at 7 or 7:30am. Aim for 7 if you can possibly swing it—on the 30+ eligibility day, they said it would be 7:30am and they opened it at 7:00am. Open a tab, hit “book online” and it will tell you what number you are in the queue. At 8am, the queue will start letting people in to book. Hit “Book online” on this page to join the queue.

<https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/topics/Page17295.aspx>

Book Online ([Pfizer](#), [Moderna](#), [AstraZeneca](#) / [Covishield](#))

First dose: those born in 2009 or before

Second dose: those who received their first dose in March, [see details](#)

[Book Online](#)

[Cancel / Modify](#)

To cancel / modify an appointment visit ahs.ca/updatebooking

That will take you to this screen. You'll see how many people are in line ahead of you. If the line is moving, it'll give you an estimated wait time. If it's not moving (like if it's 7am and booking starts at 8am), you'll see this “the line is paused” message.

The screenshot shows a browser window with the URL 'Queue-it ahs.queue-it.net'. The page header includes the Alberta Health Services logo. The main heading is 'COVID-19 Online Immunization Booking'. Below this, there is a message: 'You are in line to book your appointment and we thank you for your patience. The number of users ahead of you is provided below.' Another message states: 'You can continue to wait or try again later during off-peak hours after 7 p.m. You can also book an appointment at a participating pharmacy.' A note about limited appointments in Calgary is also present. The main content area shows 'Number of users in line ahead of you: 1' and 'The line is paused.' with a small grey dot below it.

The queue looks intimidating, but it moves quickly! When it lets you into the booking site, it will:

- give you a quick informational blurb
- ask when you were born
- ask you if you're booking your first or second shot

- ask what type of vaccine you got for your first dose if this is your second
- ask for your postal code
- ask which one you'd like for your second shot if your first shot was AstraZeneca
- ask you when your first shot was

BOOKING FIRST DOSE

BOOKING SECOND DOSE

Book online at an AHS immunization clinic

Please enter the following information to check if there are available appointments before proceeding.

Which vaccine did you receive for your first dose?* **Postal Code***

Vaccine Type e.g. T1K1M1

Submit

Book online at an AHS immunization clinic

Please enter the following information to check if there are available appointments before proceeding.

Which vaccine did you receive for your first dose?* **Postal Code***

AstraZeneca/Covishield e.g. T1K1M1

Two doses of any of the COVID-19 vaccines available in Alberta is considered a complete, safe and protective vaccine series. Albertans who received AstraZeneca/Covishield can choose if they would like to receive **AstraZeneca or an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer/Moderna)** for their second dose. For more information on second doses, please visit ahs.ca/seconddose.

Which vaccine would you prefer for your second dose?*

Vaccine Type
 mRNA (Pfizer or Moderna)
 AstraZeneca

Submit

First Dose Information

First Dose Vaccine Type*	First Dose Date*
<input type="text" value="Pfizer"/>	<input type="text" value="Month"/> <input type="text" value="Day"/> <input type="text" value="Year"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> I'm not sure when I received my first dose.	

You will do a quick COVID screening, give your personal info, then show you available appointments at the closest clinics.

1: Choose Your Preferred Facility

We have pre-selected the closest facility to your location. If you would like to schedule your appointment at a different facility, please select it now.

Appointments Available

South Park Center
3803 Calgary Trail NW, Unit 510
Edmonton
Distance: 4.1 km
[Get Directions](#)

Appointments Available

Edmonton Expo Center
7515 - 118 Avenue, Hall C, Entrance 5
Edmonton
Distance: 7.4 km
[Get Directions](#)

Appointments Available

Northgate Public Health Center
9499 - 137 Ave, 2nd floor
Edmonton
Distance: 11 km
[Get Directions](#)

Viewing 1 of 8

Available dates on the calendar will be circled in teal. Typically AHS has been booking 3 weeks at a time.

2: Choose Your Appointment Time

Please select the earliest possible appointment. Many Albertans are waiting to be immunized and we want to ensure that all available immunization appointments and vaccine doses are filled and used as quickly as possible.

Select desired date of appointment
May 11, 2021

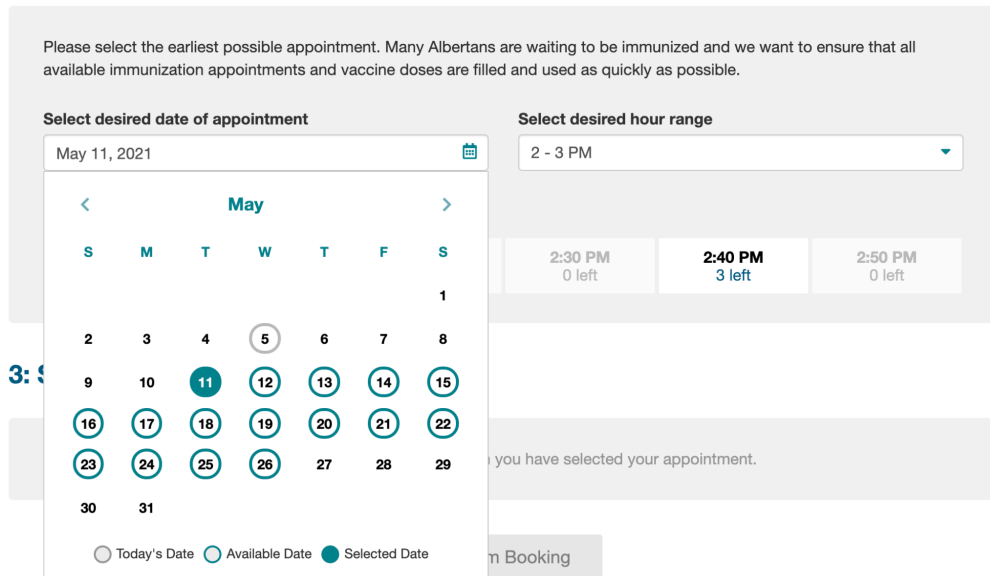
Select desired hour range
2 - 3 PM

2:30 PM 0 left
2:40 PM 3 left
2:50 PM 0 left

3: 5

you have selected your appointment.

m Booking



Once you've picked a day, you can pick an hour range and then choose a 10 minute window in that hour for your appointment time.

2: Choose Your Appointment Time

Please select the earliest possible appointment. Many Albertans are waiting to be immunized and we want to ensure that all available immunization appointments and vaccine doses are filled and used as quickly as possible.

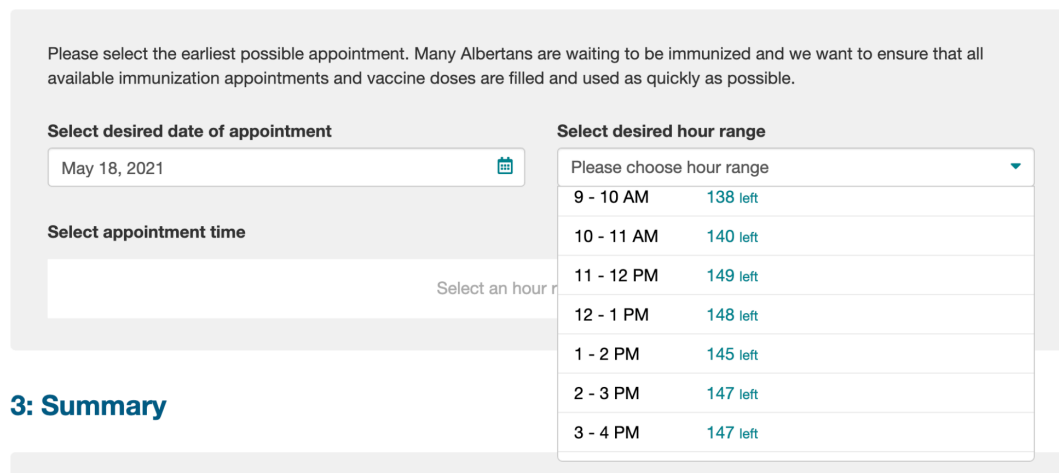
Select desired date of appointment
May 18, 2021

Select desired hour range
Please choose hour range

Select appointment time
Select an hour r

9 - 10 AM 138 left
10 - 11 AM 140 left
11 - 12 PM 149 left
12 - 1 PM 148 left
1 - 2 PM 145 left
2 - 3 PM 147 left
3 - 4 PM 147 left

3: Summary

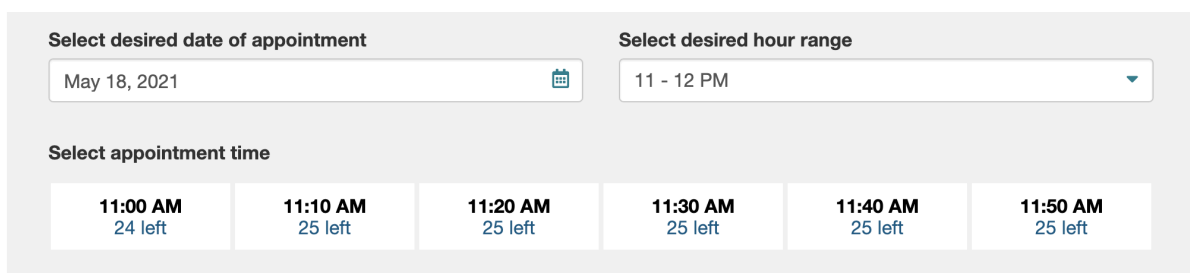


Select desired date of appointment
May 18, 2021

Select desired hour range
11 - 12 PM

Select appointment time

11:00 AM 24 left
11:10 AM 25 left
11:20 AM 25 left
11:30 AM 25 left
11:40 AM 25 left
11:50 AM 25 left



It is going to be very, very busy on the eligibility expansion days. We recommend grabbing what you can get so you have *something* booked and then using the “modify” link in your confirmation email to look for closer/sooner times. It won't cancel your original appointment until you book a new one.

Availability varies geographically. If you can't get something right away, don't panic! They add new appointments very regularly, and many pharmacies will have appointments as well. We're getting hundreds of thousands of doses every week and you'll get one very soon!

For second doses, you can only book more than one person at a time if you both want the same type of vaccine.

Family Members

I want to book additional appointments for one or more family members.

You may only add up to three family members who are currently eligible to receive a second dose and **who are able to receive the same second dose vaccine type as you**. For example:

Family member A: Pfizer + Family member B: Moderna = ❌

Family member A: Pfizer + Family member B: Pfizer = ✅

All Albertans under the age of 18, **unaccompanied** by a parent or legal guardian, are asked to bring a signed [Consent for COVID-19 Immunization form](#) to their immunization appointment.

You can book up to 3 additional family members if you are booking your first doses, but be aware that you receive a single confirmation number and if anyone needs to reschedule (illness or quarantine or a conflict), it can be challenging. We recommend max 2 at a time.

You can also call 811 to book an appointment with AHS, though we anticipate wait times to be quite long on the days when eligibility expands.

Booking at Pharmacies

For most cities and towns right now, AHS is booking earlier, but we expect this to change quickly with this rapid expansion in eligibility. You can see the map of participating pharmacies here:

<https://ab.bluecross.ca/news/covid-19-immunization-program-information.php>

Many pharmacies have online waiting lists set up that you can join to be notified when you can book an appointment. Rexall, Save On Foods, many Medicine Shoppes, Costcos, and some smaller pharmacies are using these wait list setups.

Some (including Safeway/Sobeys, Walmart, and London Drugs) let you book directly on their websites if they have appointments. They will go quickly, so act fast!

For pharmacies without a booking website, *please* be kind to them, they will be SWAMPED and typically have a very small staff. We'll be posting pharmacies with appointments as we hear about them on both Twitter and Facebook.

We've got a pretty big reach so pharmacies we post about will fill fast—it's probably not worth calling anyone we posted about more than an hour ago. If you're having trouble finding an appointment, you may want to turn on tweet notifications for us!



If you book an appointment at a pharmacy and then find a sooner or closer one elsewhere, ***please make sure you cancel your first appointment!*** No-shows risk wasting doses and slow down the process for everyone.

Final reminders

- Appointments will go very quickly but more are constantly being added. Don't panic! We'll get you that vaccine ASAP.
- If you are on any waiting lists that you talked to an actual human person to join, give them a call when you get your shot so they can take your name off and save themselves a call. (Automated waiting lists are less important.)
- Please don't go to your vaccine appointment if you are in quarantine due to being a close contact of a COVID case or if you have any symptoms at all. Health care workers are working around the clock to vaccinate Albertans, let's not get them sick! Just make sure to cancel and reschedule your appointment so they know you aren't coming.
- If you hear about open appointments, please let us know! We'll post them if it's more than a handful.
- If you need help, we'll do our best to troubleshoot with you, but as eligibility expands and our reach grows, our turnaround times might slow down a bit. (We're just three

people with six small children and two full time jobs between us!)

- If you'd like to help, please share any updates you have with us about open appointments, help people in your life get a vaccine appointment, and follow all public health guidelines.

Thank you all for your support and enthusiasm for vaccines! Let's get vaccinated and crush this virus once and for all.

FAQ

Will I get Pfizer or Moderna?

For first doses, AHS clinics may have either Pfizer or Moderna and it can vary from day to day and even station to station. If you have a strong preference, you should book through a pharmacy, as they will specify which one they carry. If you are under 18, you will get Pfizer. For your second dose, you will likely get the same one you got for your first dose, but mixing is allowed if you can't get a dose of the same one.

I got AstraZeneca for my first dose, what should I get for my second dose?

AHS put out a [helpful fact sheet](#) to help you decide which option would be better.

I don't have an Alberta Healthcare number

If you are from out of province or out of country, call 811 to discuss your booking options.

When am I eligible for a second dose?

Anyone whose first dose was in March is eligible as of June 1. Anyone whose first dose was in April is eligible as of June 14. Anyone whose first dose was in May is eligible as of June 28. Join wait lists if you are able, as many people are getting called in earlier! If your first shot was AstraZeneca, it is recommended to wait 8 weeks before your second shot.

I know someone who got their second dose ahead of schedule!

It happens sometimes! Second shots will move so much more quickly than first that our priority should be getting shots in arms as fast as possible. Sign up for wait lists and you may get a call!

[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)

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