

Notice to all community pharmacies regarding the Alberta COVID-19 Pharmacy Immunization Program (ACPIP)

Extension of interval between 1st and 2nd doses

Starting March 10, all new bookings for appointments for a first dose of COVID-19 vaccine with any provider (Alberta Health Services [AHS] or a participating community pharmacy) will have their second dose timeline extended up to four months. This second appointment will be booked at a later date accordingly.

For clarity, all eligible Albertans booking an appointment March 10 onwards, will be booked for the first dose **only**. Albertans will receive a reminder from AHS or the participating pharmacy to book a second dose at a later date. More information when the second dose appointment can be booked will come at a later date.

Albertans who have booked appointments **prior** to March 10, inclusive of the 1st and 2nd doses, with AHS or a participating pharmacy will have their current appointments honoured at the interval they have been booked for.

With this change, Alberta will now be on track to offer first doses of vaccine to all adults 18 years and over by the end of June, provided supplies of vaccines arrive as forecast by the federal government.

Emerging evidence indicates that first doses of all currently approved vaccines appear to be at least 80 per cent effective in protecting against severe outcomes after just the first dose.

The four-month (16-week) extension of the timeline for second doses is recommended by the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) and brings Alberta in line with British Columbia and other jurisdictions.

Pre-booking COVID-19 vaccine appointments

It has been reported that some Albertans are attempting to pre-book appointments with pharmacies that are not currently confirmed for participation in the ACP/IP or booking multiple appointments at AHS and community pharmacies. This has the potential to lead to significant vaccine allocation challenges and an increased risk of wastage.

If your pharmacy has not received confirmation of participation in the ACP/IP, do not pre-book appointments with your patients.

continued next page

PHARMACY BENEFACT

continued from previous page

Alberta Vaccine Inventory (AVI) reporting process

Participating pharmacies **will be required** to access the AVI portal on a daily basis to complete required reporting under the ACPIP.

All participating locations must complete a daily physical count and reconciliation of their on-hand inventory and provide reporting by 9 p.m. The on-hand quantities reported in AVI are used to manage inventory in the province and accuracy is essential to managing the COVID-19 vaccine program.

A recorded training session was posted on the AVI home page on March 3 at <https://vimsavi.alberta.ca/prod/>.

Please see link below for pharmacies to enrol in AVI in preparation for expansion of the ACPIP. Up to four on-site users per pharmacy site who will be responsible for submitting daily records can be enrolled with AVI. Please complete all fields on all pages and submit the information to be uploaded to AVI.

Please complete this form as soon as possible to ensure your enrolment is complete in time for participation in the ACPIP.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScG4jkh4OdVmQa99Q7fNXOv7Auhz8XKyFbxlkb2mPRtfqIJQ/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0>

For assistance with benefit or claim inquiries, please contact an Alberta Blue Cross Pharmacy Services Provider Relations contact centre representative at

780-498-8370 (Edmonton and area)

403-294-4041 (Calgary and area)

1-800-361-9632 (toll free)

FAX 780-498-8406 (Edmonton and area)

FAX 1-877-305-9911 (toll free)

Alberta Blue Cross offers online access to current Pharmacy Benefacts and supplemental claiming information to assist with the submission of your direct bill drug claims.

Visit ab.bluecross.ca/providers/pharmacy-home.php

