

## Second dose of COVID-19 vaccinations postponed

### What's Happening?

Yesterday we learned from Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry that expected deliveries of vaccine to Fraser Health will be further delayed. The province is working with the federal government to ensure our supply gets back on track, but we will have extremely limited vaccine available for the next two weeks.

As a result, we are postponing second doses and more information is to come, until we have assurance that vaccine supply has fully resumed. This is about doing our best to give as many people as possible the protection of a first dose.

Each vaccine dose reduces the likelihood of severe illness and saves lives, and also increases the protection that our health care system needs, which is why Dr. Henry has directed that the interval between first and second doses be further extended. Available vaccine will be directed to outbreak sites around the province. This is a temporary approach that will protect as many people as possible from this virus during a time of limited vaccine supply.

Both the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines require a second dose to maximize their effectiveness and give longer-lasting protection. However, the protection after even a single dose is over 90 per cent, and this protection lasts for at least six weeks. For both approved vaccines, this dosing schedule is within the approved range and has been endorsed by Canada's National Advisory Committee for Immunization as well as by immunization experts at the World Health Organization.

We understand the challenges this update will present to you, and we appreciate your flexibility and understanding as we adapt to this evolving situation.

### How This May Affect You?

- **If you or your staff had booked an appointment for their second dose this week, their appointments will be cancelled. Please advise them as such. No action is required on their part.**
- **Details about next available second dose clinics will come at a later date.**

### Questions?

Please contact [SchedulesCovidVaccine@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:SchedulesCovidVaccine@fraserhealth.ca).