



Your Decision

COVID19 Vaccination

Brought to you by the Society of St Vincent de Paul - Vancouver Island



Consent: Vaccination = Voluntary

- You have the right to say no.
- You also have the right to information.



Photo by [Daniel Schludi](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Informed Consent

- Making your decision based on the **best available information**, so you are making a **well-informed decision**.
- Understanding the **risks** of saying yes or no.



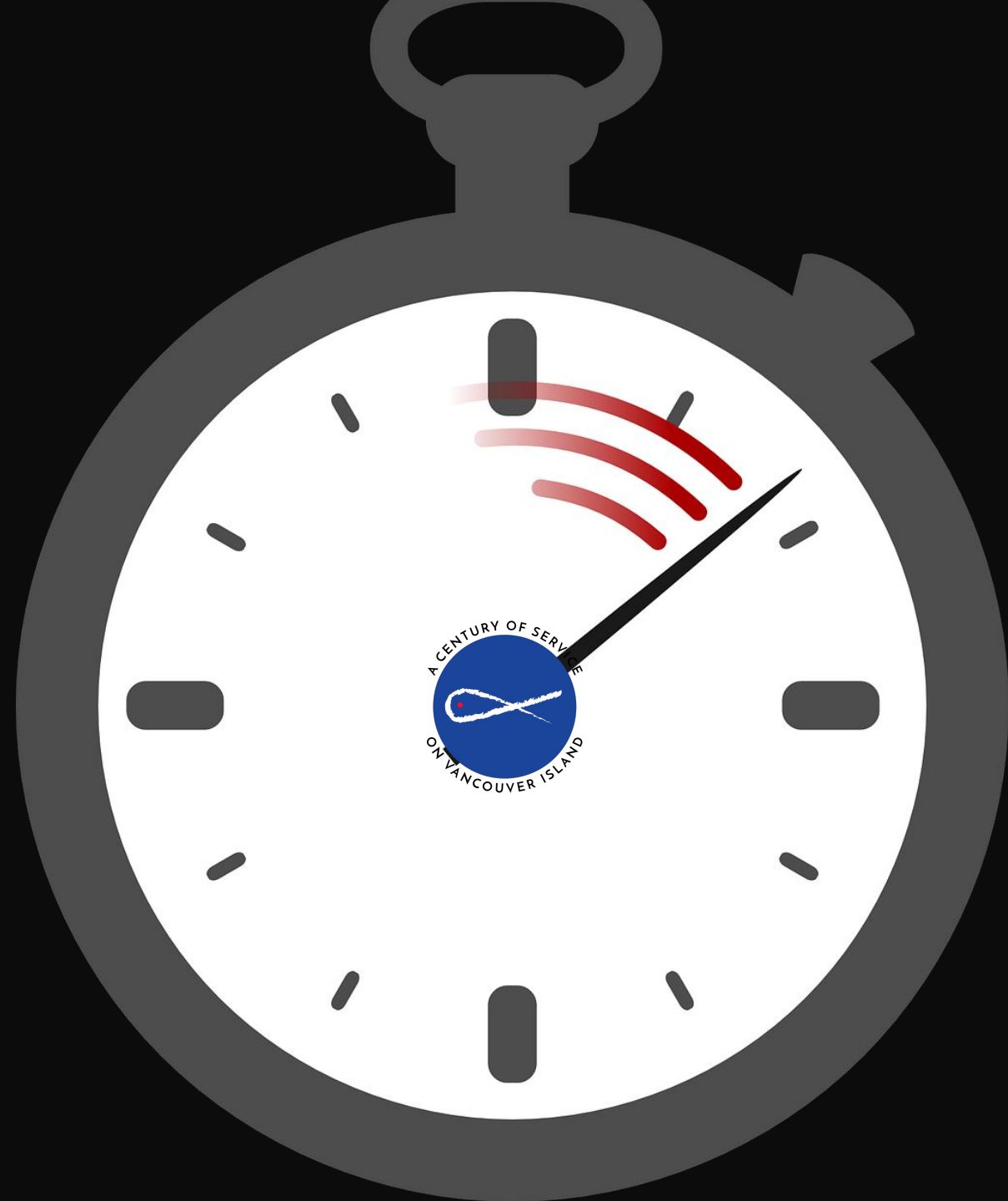
Allergic Reaction

Very rarely, a person will have a true serious reaction to a vaccine, like a severe allergic reaction (called anaphylaxis).

The chance of this occurring is between one in 100,000 and one in a million ¹.

It usually happens shortly after a person receives the vaccine and is treatable.

Therefore, you will be asked to wait 15 minutes after receiving a vaccine. Health care providers are trained to recognize and treat it.



Common side effects

Most people develop soreness in the arm where the vaccine is injected, which usually goes away in a couple of days ².

You might also feel under the weather after you get immunized; for example, you may get body chills and feel tired and feverish ².

This is the body's natural response, as it's working hard to build immunity against the disease. It's normal and will pass ².





The other side of the coin:

- The risk of complications from getting the real disease is **far greater** than the risk of side effects from vaccines.
- For people who have **chronic illness, are unsheltered, are food insecure or are elderly** have a much higher risk of serious illness or even death.

Photo by [Matt Collamer](#) on [Unsplash](#)

How does the mRNA vaccine work?

mRNA vaccines contain instructions that teach our cells how to make spike (S) proteins that will trigger an immune response ².

Once triggered, our body then makes antibodies and other immune responses.

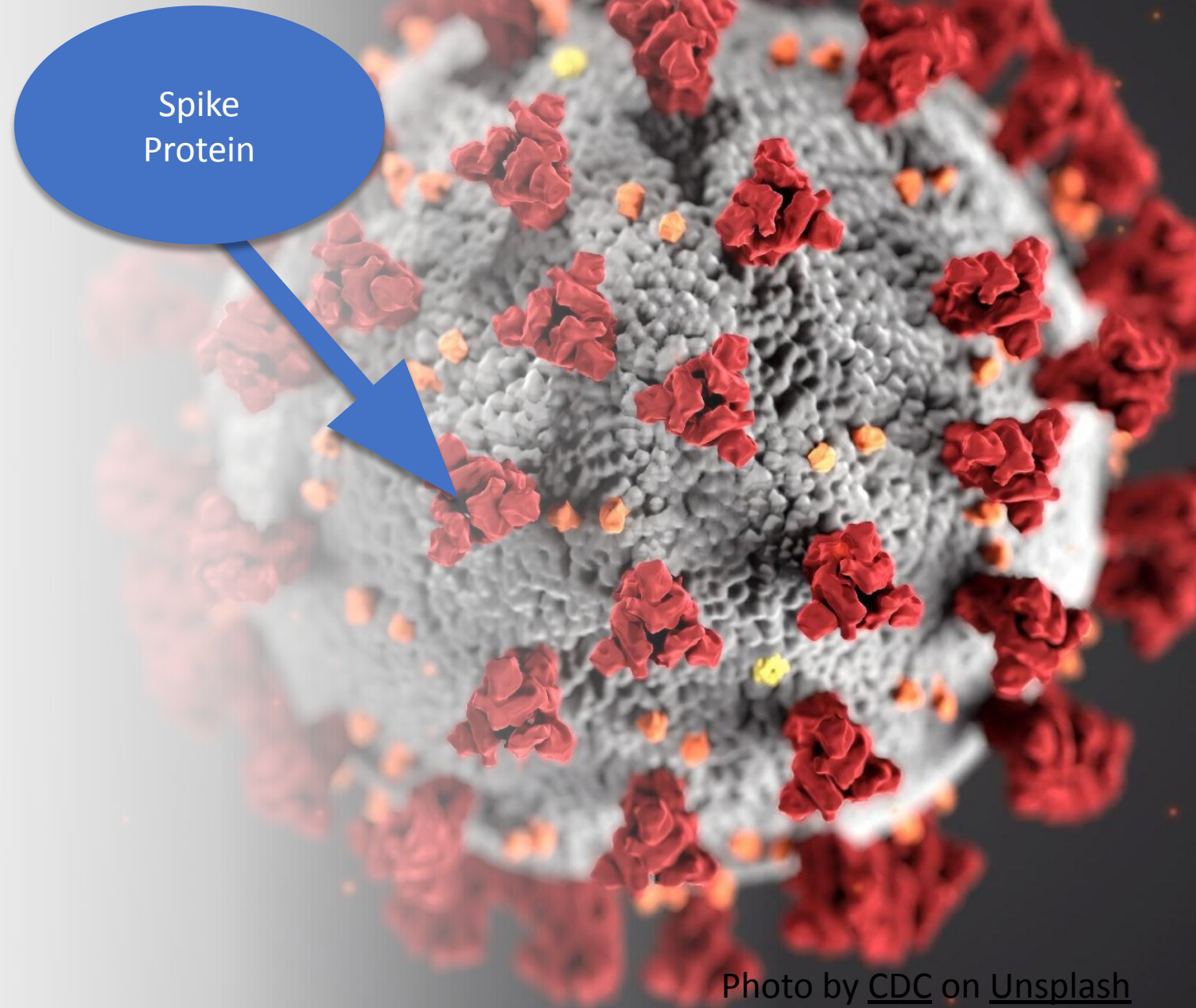


Photo by [CDC](#) on [Unsplash](#)

What is in the Moderna vaccine?

Medicinal ingredient ³

- mRNA (teaches cells how to temporarily make proteins)

Non-medicinal ingredients ³

- lipids/fats (protect the mRNA), including PEG
- acetic acid (like in vinegar)
- stabilizers
- salts
- sugars

Can I get COVID from the vaccine?

You can't get COVID from the vaccine itself ⁴.

If you get a cough, sore throat or breathing problems after the vaccine, you should get tested for COVID ⁴.

The vaccine won't stop everyone from getting COVID-19, but it's less likely you will experience severe illness.





Is the vaccine safe if I use other drugs, including illicit ones?

Although vaccines and medications can sometimes affect each other, these interactions don't usually cause big problems.

There have been no drug interactions studies performed to date 5.

Immunosuppressive drugs could decrease the efficacy of the vaccine. If you are taking drugs that suppress your immune system, please talk to your doctor.

**Would I have to stop using
my other drugs if I want to
get the vaccine?**

**You should be feeling well when you are
about to receive the vaccine ⁴.**



Photo: hakan-nural-gQd4SRfKs40-unsplash

Benefits of the vaccine

- For those who do get the virus, it is less likely you will experience severe illness ⁴.
- Reducing viral load appears to be reducing spread of COVID.
- Reducing spread is thought to reduce the virus' ability to mutate.





Do I need to keep wearing a mask if I have been vaccinated?

Yes please, after the vaccine, continue with COVID precautions until we achieve a community level immunity where the virus isn't spreading any longer ⁴.

Regardless if you had the vaccine or not: Washing your hands often, not touching your face, eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands, and staying physically apart from others are essential practices to stay safe.

Substance use and COVID-19

- COVID-19 is a virus that can cause a respiratory infection and other health problems.
- Fentanyl and other opioids can slow a person's breathing rate, so **COVID-19 may increase the risk of overdose death from opioids³**.



Decrease transmission

- Clean your hands before preparing, handling or using your drugs.
- Clean surfaces with soap, alcohol wipes, bleach or hydrogen peroxide before preparing drugs if possible.
- Avoid sharing cigarettes, joints, pipes, injecting equipment, containers for alcohol, utensils, and other supplies.
- If you must share, wipe pipes with alcohol wipes or use new mouthpieces.



Buddy up

- Buddy up when you are using.
- COVID-19 is passed by droplets. Stay 2 metres (6.5 ft.) from your buddy to avoid passing the virus ³.
- **Using with a buddy is safer than using alone ³.**
- Check in on your buddies regularly.



Photo: zac-durant-76HhAKI5JXI-unsplash

Please ask

- If you have any concerns, please reach out to a Registered Practical Nurse (RPN), primary care physician, outreach worker or other professional.
- They may not have all the answers, but they can assist in finding them for you.

Update:

Second shots delayed from 6 weeks to 16 weeks to allow more people receiving first vaccination (March 2, 2021).

TIMES ♥ COLONIST
Tuesday, March 2, 2021
Victoria, British Columbia
Prices surge as high demand, low stock fuel hot real estate market >B1
High 7. Low 3. Details, B12 timescolonist

B.C. to delay second shots in effort to get more people vaccinated at faster pace; final phase to start by July

ANDY E. HARNETT
Times Colonist
CAMILLE BAINS
Canadian Press

...one who wants to be vaccinated against COVID-19 can get their first jab by July, an accelerated timeline made possible by increasing the waiting period for second shots to 16 weeks.

...body moves up in the provincial health officer's priority list, Henry said Monday. He said the province's new phase immunization plan, second jab delayed until four weeks after first shot.

COVID-19 BC Immunization Plan: Phase 2

Phase 1 December 2020 to February 2021	Phase 2 February to April 2021	Phase 3 April to June 2021	Phase 4 July to September 2021
High-risk population		General population	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Residents, staff and essential visitors to long-term care and assisted livingIndividuals assessed for/awaiting long-term careHospital health care workers who may provide care for COVID-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Seniors aged 80+ who are not yet immunizedIndigenous peoples aged 65+, Elders, and additional communities not yet immunizedHospital staff, community GPs and medical specialists not yet immunized	<p>People aged 79 to 60, in five-year increments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">79 to 7574 to 7069 to 65 <p>People aged 69 to 16 who are clinically extremely vulnerable</p>	<p>People aged 59 to 18, in five-year increments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">59 to 5554 to 5049 to 4544 to 4039 to 3534 to 30

See Our **Weekly Specials**
EACH TUESDAY IN THE TIMES COLONIST AND THURSDAYS IN TC EXTRA EXTRA!
OUR ONLINE STORE IS NOW OPEN
3829 Cadboro Bay Rd. 250-477-6511



Photo: giulia-may-8JFMYz-a8Xo-unsplash



COVID vaccine rollout

This information has been collated from the following sources:

1. Vaccine safety and efficacy (Health Canada).
2. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/covid19-industry/drugs-vaccines-treatments/vaccines/moderna.html>
3. COVID-19 and Harm Reduction for People Who Use Substances (BCCDC)
4. MHO_Letter_and_FAQs_Feb 9_FINAL
5. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/recommendations-use-covid-19-vaccines.html#b9>

Please check with us to assure you get up-to-date, and accurate, information, or visit:

COVID-19 vaccine (Island Health public website)