



Message from  
Dr. Verna Yiu &  
Dr. Laura McDougall

## *Expanding Second Dose COVID-19 Immunization Window*

### **Dear staff, physicians and volunteers,**

As Alberta Health announced this afternoon, Alberta will be extending the period between first and second doses of COVID-19 vaccine with the goal of providing first doses to all adults 18 years and over in Alberta, by the end of June.

Emerging evidence indicates that all currently approved COVID-19 vaccines appear to be at least 80 per cent effective in protecting against severe outcomes after the first dose.

Increasing the time from the first dose to the second dose will ensure Alberta is on track to offer first doses of vaccine to adults 18 years and over, by the end of June, provided vaccine supply arrives as forecasted by the federal government.

Starting **March 10**, all current Health Canada approved COVID-19 vaccine products will be provided to Albertans in a 16-week (4 month) timeline between the first and second dose. This is in alignment with current [National Advisory Committee on Immunization \(NACI\) recommendations](#).

Anyone who has booked their immunization before March 10 will be immunized within a 42-day window. All bookings made after March 10 will be on the 16-week protocol.

All individuals that call Health Link, or go online to the [AHS online COVID-19 immunization booking](#) tool starting March 10, will be able to book their first dose only. Individuals will receive a reminder from AHS at a later date, by text message, email or automated call, of when to book their second dose appointment.

All existing appointments for second doses will be honoured and will be provided within

42 days.

The COVID-19 vaccine roll out continues to evolve and we will continue to keep you abreast of new information and evidence as it becomes available. For more information, please refer to the [COVID-19 Vaccine FAQ](#). Thank you for your continued support.

With gratitude and appreciation,

**Dr. Verna Yiu**

AHS President & CEO

**Dr. Laura McDougall**

Senior Medical Officer of Health

