

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 Vaccines

Very rare symptoms to watch for after receiving vaccine

AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine is associated with very rare cases of unusual blood clots accompanied by low levels of blood platelets (which help blood to clot) after vaccination. The frequency of this adverse event with AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD is not known with certainty but appears to occur between 1 per 26,000 to 1 per 100,000 persons vaccinated with a first dose of AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine. As of May 12, 2021, PHAC has estimated the rate of these unusual blood clotting disorders in Canada to be 1 in 83,000 doses administered, however, as investigations continue, this rate could be as high as 1 in 55,000.

In the UK, the rate of unusual blood clots accompanied by low levels of platelets **after the second dose** is estimated to be 1 in 600,000. As more second doses are provided, this rate may increase.

The death rate from these blood clotting disorders varies between countries, and ranges between 20 and 50%. This rate varies with early diagnosis and appropriate treatment. Many cases have been reported to have serious long term illness including neurologic injury. Cases have occurred in vaccine recipients of all ages and sexes and there does not appear to be any risk factors.

If you have any of the following symptoms after receiving the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine **please call 911 or seek medical help right away** and make sure you mention you have received the vaccine:

- sudden onset of severe headache
- headache that won't go away and is getting worse
- shortness of breath
- chest pain
- stomach pain that won't go away
- swelling and redness or pain in a limb
- pallor and coldness in a limb
- blurred vision or double vision, episodes similar to seizures, confusion
- skin bruising (other than the area where you were vaccinated) or, reddish or purplish spots, or blood blisters under the skin

Please seek medical help immediately if you get any of the above symptoms after receiving the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD vaccine. The symptoms can occur during the first month and up to 6 weeks after receiving the AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD COVID-19 vaccine.



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For information visit: novascotia.ca/vaccine-plan

