

Keeping you informed

Benefit plan news for People Corporation plan sponsors

Canada's rollout of COVID-19 vaccines

With the administration of COVID-19 vaccines well underway, Canadians are seeing a light at the end of the pandemic tunnel. As more of us are vaccinated, we'll see how this next phase will impact our lives – at work, at home and getting back to the lifestyles we enjoyed before the pandemic.

COVID-19 vaccinations are being provided for free to all Canadian residents. Currently, there are four vaccines approved for use in Canada: Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech, AstraZeneca, and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson). They've each gone through a five-step process which includes: non-clinical trials, clinical trials, validation, quality, and issuance of the licence.

Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech, and AstraZeneca vaccines require two doses several weeks apart. The time in between doses may vary by province. The Janssen vaccine requires only one dose.

Vaccines have been shown to be up to 95 per cent effective against COVID-19 and in all cases, dramatically reduces the possibility of serious illness or hospitalization. The full efficacy each vaccine has against each variant isn't yet known but early studies indicate that the vaccines offer a level of protection that may differ by variant. Learn more about Canada's approved vaccines.

Insightful information - COVID-19 webinar with Dr. Sol Sax

On March 8, our Health Solutions team hosted a webinar with guest speaker, Dr. Sax, a specialist in occupational medicine. Dr Sax provided an overview of the current state of the pandemic in Canada, including case numbers, variants, and vaccines. He outlined how workplaces are affected and reviewed proper use of masks, and provided a workplace risk assessment. Lastly, we looked to the future: screening, testing, vaccinating, and the truth about bubbles.

<u>Watch the webinar</u> or read through the <u>summary</u> document.

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Getting the vaccine won't impact insurance coverage

Despite the misinformation being distributed online, receiving a vaccine will not hinder anyone's ability to obtain health coverage.

The Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association offers some reassurance. "Getting the vaccine will not affect your insurance coverage. No one should be afraid and choose to not protect themselves from COVID-19 because they are worried about it affecting their benefits. All of Canada's life and health insurers are supportive of Canadians receiving government approved vaccinations to protect themselves from serious illness and death."

Read the <u>full press release</u> from the CLHIA for more information.

Vaccination rollout strategy by province

Each province has its own vaccination rollout plan. View the information accessible through the links for details on eligibility criteria and vaccination appointment booking processes.

- <u>Alberta</u>
- British Columbia
- Manitoba
- New Brunswick
- Newfoundland
- Nova Scotia
- Ontario
- <u>Quebec (EN)</u>
- Quebec (FR)
- Saskatchewan

Check out the <u>National Vaccine</u> <u>Tracker</u> to view all stats and key updates on nation-wide vaccination coverage.

For more information

For more information, visit our COVID-19 Information Centre available through our corporate site, or contact your People Corporation benefits consultant.

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