

Sagkeeng COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout FAQ – PHASE ONE (Jan-Feb 2021)

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I'm younger than 70 years old. When can I get a vaccine?

It's too early for us to know for sure, but Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has given a timeline of September 2021 for vaccines to be available to everyone in Canada. As Sagkeeng receives more vaccines it will become available to more of the community starting with our older members and working our way to our younger members.

How is the vaccine given?

The vaccine is given by injection as 2 doses and it is very important to get both doses of the vaccine for full protection. If you register to receive the first dose, you must commit to getting the second dose in February because we cannot be sure when more vaccine supply will come in so we cannot give these second doses to individuals who have not already received the first dose.

If I already had COVID-19, do I need to take the vaccine?

Yes, it is recommended that even if you previously tested positive for COVID-19 and recovered that you get the vaccine. The reason is we cannot be sure what level your immunity might be from getting the virus "naturally", if at all.

Are there any dangers or reasons why someone shouldn't get the vaccine?

There is only one reason why you cannot get the COVID-19 vaccine and that is if you have had a life-threatening reaction (anaphylaxis) to a previous dose of the COVID-19 vaccine or to any other part of the vaccine. One part of the COVID-19 vaccine is polyethylene glycol (PEG). PEG can be found in some cosmetics, skin care products, laxatives, cough syrups, and bowel preparation products for colonoscopy. PEG can be an additive in some processed foods and drinks but no cases of anaphylaxis to PEG in foods and drinks have been reported.

Do I still have to wear a mask and avoid visiting with friends/family after I get the vaccine?

Yes, it is important that you continue to follow all the precautions even after you get the vaccine. Even though the Moderna vaccine was tested as being 94.1%, it is still possible that you can get the virus and become a risk to your friends, family and neighbors who have not yet received a vaccine.