

COVID-19 Living Evidence Synthesis #6

What is the effectiveness of available COVID-19 vaccines for adults, including variants of concern and over time frames up to 120 days?

A variant of concern is a variant for which there is evidence of an increased risk of spread, more severe disease (for example, causing more hospitalizations or deaths), lower capacity of antibodies generated as a result of infection by the virus or vaccination to block its actions, reduced success of treatments or vaccines, or failure of diagnostic tests to detect the virus. It is important to understand how COVID-19 variants of concern affect the virus' behaviour, including their impact on how well vaccines work among the adult population.

How have we done this living evidence synthesis?



We conducted a broad search in several databases and websites to retrieve studies evaluating the effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines, including the COVID-END Inventory of Evidence Syntheses.



We examined the studies reporting data on how well vaccines work against variants of concern (more specifically, whether the vaccines prevent any infection, symptomatic infection, transmission, severe disease, and death).



We critically appraised the studies and determined the level of certainty of the body of evidence. The color indicates the level of certainty based on the evidence.

Levels of certainty based on the best evidence available

Low-certainty evidence



There are aspects of the studies that led us to believe the results may not be the same in future studies

Moderate-certainty evidence



The studies were done with low to moderate risk of bias but revealed only partially consistent findings

High-certainty evidence



The studies were well done with low risk of bias. The studies revealed consistent findings

Vaccine* effectiveness** against Omicron

Outcome (and vaccine)	Number of doses	Time since last dose (days)	Effectiveness
Any infection			
Pfizer	2	44	26 – 55%
	2	60	6 – 49%
	3	60	58 – 74%
	ა	90	35 - 36%
	2	60	48%
	2	90	24 – 30%
Moderna		30	46 – 64%
	3	60	60 – 61%
		90	57%
D4:		30	58%
Pfizer or Moderna	3	90	54 - 55%
Moderna		120	58%
Symptomatic inf	ection		
	2	90	27 – 36%
	2	120	26 – 34%
Pfizer		30	54 – 69%
	3	30 – 60	37 – 59%
		Up to 104	40 – 60%
Moderna	2	60	53%
	2	90	36%
	3	30	55 – 71%
	3	42 – 120	39 – 67%
AstraZeneca	2	60	34%
		90	29%
AstraZeneca followed by Pfizer or Moderna	2 AstraZeneca 1 Pfizer	60	16 – 53%
	2 AstraZeneca 1 Moderna	60	18 – 61%

Transmission

No evidence available

Severe disease (may include death in some studies)						
Pfizer	3	7 – 42	91%			
		60	75 – 91%			
Moderna	3	7 – 42	81%			
Death						
Pfizer	2	90 – 120	57%			
	3	60 – 90	86%			



COVID-19 Living Evidence Synthesis #6

What is the effectiveness of available COVID-19 vaccines for adults, including variants of concern and over time frames up to 120 days?

Vaccine* effectiveness** against other variants

(2 does unless otherwise stated) up to 30 days after last dose

Outcome	Variants of concern				
(and vaccine)	Alpha	Beta	Gamma	Delta	
Any Infection	Any Infection				
Pfizer	78 – 95%		93%	42 – 93%	
Moderna	86 – 100%	96%	95%	52 – 91%	
AstraZeneca	62 – 79%		90%	45 – 83%	
Johnson & Johnson				3 – 71%	
AstraZeneca followed by Pfizer or Moderna	82 – 91%		96%	88%	
Symptomatic infection (reported when data on 'any infection' is limited)					
Pfizer		84 – 88%	84 – 88%	63 – 94%	
Moderna			88%	87%	
AstraZeneca		10%	65%	61 – 92%	
Johnson & Johnson				51%	
Novavax	86%	43%			
AstraZeneca followed by Pfizer or Moderna				67 – 79%	

Outcome (and vaccine)	Variants of concern				
	Alpha	Beta	Gamma	Delta	
Transmissio	Transmission				
Pfizer	70 – 82%			31 - 63% (unvaccinated contact) 10 - 40% (vaccinated contact)	
Moderna	88%			62 – 77%	
AstraZeneca	58 – 63%			36%	
Johnson & Johnson	77%				
AstraZeneca followed by Pfizer or Moderna				86%	
Severe disease (may include death in some studies)					
Pfizer	92 – 100%			82 – 98%	
Moderna	96%	96%		93 – 100%	
AstraZeneca			76%		
Johnson & Johnson		82%		93%	
Death					
Pfizer	91 – 97%			90%	
AstraZeneca				91%	
Johnson & Johnson				90%	

^{*} This infographic includes evidence about vaccines available in Canada.

The COVID-19 Evidence Network to support Decision-making (COVID-END) is supported by an investment from the Government of Canada through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). To help Canadian decision-makers as they respond to unprecedented challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic, COVID-END in Canada is preparing rapid evidence responses like this one. The opinions, results, and conclusions are those of the evidence-synthesis team that prepared the rapid response, and are independent of the Government of Canada and CIHR. No endorsement by the Government of Canada or CIHR is intended or should be inferred.

Iorio A, Little J, Linkins L, Abdelkader W, Bennett D, Lavis JN. COVID-19 living evidence synthesis #6 (version 6.41): What is the efficacy and effectiveness of available COVID-19 vaccines in general and specifically for variants of concern? Health Information Research Unit (HIRU); McMaster and Ottawa Knowledge Synthesis and Application Unit, 14 September 2022.

^{**} The values represent "range of means" and single values mean the result is derived from a single study.