

## IMPORTANT UPDATES ON COVID-19

**To:** Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Nurses, and Midwives  
Hospital Infection Control Departments and Emergency Departments

**Updated information on myocarditis/pericarditis following mRNA vaccination and IPAC/PPE measures for office visits are included in this alert.**

### Myocarditis/Pericarditis following mRNA vaccination

There have been international reports, including from the United States and Israel, of myocarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle) and pericarditis (inflammation of the lining around the heart) following vaccination with COVID-19 mRNA vaccines. Information to date indicates that these events occur more commonly after the second dose, within the week following vaccination (typically within 4-5 days), mainly in adolescents/young adults and more often in males than females.

PHAC and Health Canada are closely monitoring these events in passive and active Canadian vaccine safety surveillance systems.

As of July 3, 2021, there have been 74 reports of myocarditis or pericarditis following receipt of COVID19 mRNA vaccines in Ontario. Of these, 22 (29.7%) were diagnosed with myocarditis and 35 (47.3%) were diagnosed with pericarditis. The remaining 17 were diagnosed with perimyocarditis (n=1), myopericarditis (n=15) or inflammatory cardiac reaction of unclear significance (n=1). In addition, there are 29 reports classified as 'persons under investigation' (16 after dose one; 12 after dose two; 1 with unknown dose number) as public health units are still collecting additional information on the AEFI report. The 22 reports of myocarditis have been assessed using the Brighton Collaboration case definition for myocarditis; 21 reports met Brighton levels of diagnostic certainty 1 or 2 and one report had insufficient evidence to meet level 1, 2 or 3 of the case definition. 14 In the absence of a Brighton Collaboration case definition for pericarditis (under development), the CDC case definition for pericarditis was applied to Ontario events. Of the 35 reports of pericarditis, 22 (62.9%) met the CDC case definition for pericarditis. See Table 3 for further characteristics of myocarditis/pericarditis reports.

Of the 74 reports of myocarditis or pericarditis, 43 (58.1%) individuals required hospitalization with some variation by age group. In the 12-17 year age group, five of the 12 reports required hospitalization (41.7%) and in the 25-29 year age group, eight of the nine reports required hospitalization (88.9%). The proportion of reports that required hospitalization should be interpreted with caution due to the small number of reports within these age groups. Among the 33 reports where both the date of admission and discharge was available for review, the median length of stay was two days. Ontario is continuing to monitor these events in collaboration with

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your local Timiskaming Health Unit:

**Monday to Friday**  
**8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

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# HEALTHCARE PROVIDER ALERT

## July 9, 2021

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its partners and weekly updates can be found within this report and on the PHAC website. Please see PHO's At A Glance: Myocarditis and Pericarditis Following COVID-19 mRNA Vaccines for more information on this topic.

**Table 3. Characteristics of myocarditis or pericarditis reports received to date following COVID-19 mRNA vaccines: Ontario, December 13, 2020 to July 3, 2021**

	Myocarditis or pericarditis reports after dose 1 (n=36)	Myocarditis or pericarditis reports after dose 2 (n=38)	Total (n=74)
<b>Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine</b>	32	14	46
<b>Moderna COVID-19 vaccine</b>	4	24	28
<b>Median age, years (range)</b>	22 (12 – 78)	28 (16 – 79)	25 (12 – 79)
<b>Median time to onset, days (range)*</b>	8 (0 – 37)	2 (1 – 12)	3 (0 – 37)
<b>Gender: male (%)</b>	28 (77.8%)	29 (76.3%)	57 (77.0%)

**Note:** One report with time to onset of 71 days following dose 2 and three reports with unknown time to onset have been excluded from the calculation of median time to onset and range.

**Data Source:** CCM

### IPAC/PPE FAQ

The Ontario College of Family Physicians has released an updated FAQ pertaining to Infection Prevention and Control and Personal Protective Equipment for office visits (July 5, 2021, available in English only). The document can be found [here](#).