

## AstraZeneca COVISHield Clotting Risk and Effectiveness Information

We understand that you may have heard or read about the AstraZeneca (AZ) COVID vaccine and blood clots in the media recently as well as suggestions that this vaccine is not “as good as” others. We hope this information sheet helps answer some of questions and allows you to feel more comfortable about the safety and efficacy of this vaccine. Here is what we know at present:

### Blood Clots

Though you may have heard that this vaccine is associated with blood clots in the media, there is no evidence showing AZ vaccine causes blood clots. In the United Kingdom, there has been no increase in blood clots reported after over 11 million doses of the AZ vaccine.

#### 1. Looking at rates:

- Among the 5 million people who received the AZ vaccine in the data being looked at, there are 30 reports of people developing a blood clot. That is equivalent to **0.0006%**.
- The rate of getting a blood clot in the general public, without the vaccine is **0.002% per year**.
- Among people with COVID illness, **2%** of them developed a blood clot.
- Developing blood clots is common, especially in older people. Some people who receive a vaccine may at some point in the future develop a blood clot, for reasons that are not related to the vaccine.

#### 2. Statements from experts in Canada:

- Both Health Canada and Thrombosis Canada have said they continue to support the use and safety of this vaccine. They have both independently stated that there is no evidence the AZ vaccine causes blood clots.
- The COVID-19 vaccines are still strongly recommended for people who have had a previous blood clot and in people who are receiving blood thinning treatment.

### Effectiveness

ALL of the approved vaccine in Canada are very good at protecting against severe disease (hospitalization and death). The rates for the AZ vaccine, after 2 doses, is 100%. This is the same as Moderna (100%) and Pfizer (75-100%).

We hope this is helpful to you but please do not hesitate to ask your primary care team or vaccination provider any other questions you have.