

Maritime Force Pacific (MARPAAC) Vaccination Roll-out

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1. What is the situation?

A1. Maritime Forces Pacific is mobilizing to provide COVID-19 vaccinations to eligible Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) personnel within the formation. The Moderna vaccine is anticipated to arrive in Esquimalt mid-April 2021, after which a vaccine schedule will be confirmed. First-doses of the vaccine will be provided via mass vaccination clinics in April/May, with second doses being administered in May/June. Notwithstanding leave or other personal circumstances, all eligible CAF members within the formation can expect to receive their COVID-19 vaccination by the end of June.

Q2. What vaccine is MARPAAC getting?

A2. Canadian Forces Health Services (Pacific) is receiving and will be administering the Moderna vaccine. The Moderna vaccine is a [messenger RNA vaccine](#) (mRNA) that is administered in two doses.

Q3. What will the roll-out look like for Esquimalt?

A3. *Please note that dates are subject to change. Second-dose clinic information will be shared when it is confirmed.

Esquimalt First-Dose Clinics

- 16 April – Commander, MARPAAC to confirm Vaccine Schedule
- 21 April – Vaccine clinic set-up, dry run, and clinician team training
- 22 April – Clinic of health service staff and select patients

Chiefs & Petty Officer's Mess

- 27-29 April – Vaccine clinics (500 pers/day)
- 4-6 May – Vaccine clinics (500 pers/day)

Base Medical Clinic (Evenings/Weekends)

- 11, 13, 15, 18, 20, 22 May – Vaccine clinics (150 pers/day)
 - * 1700-2000 Tues & Thurs
 - *1000-1400 Saturdays

Q4. How do I know when my unit is supposed to be vaccinated?

A4. Units will be provided with vaccination dates/times based on a prioritization matrix that will determine the order in which doses will be given.

Q5. What training is being provided to vaccination teams?

A5. The vaccination teams are made up of health care professionals who will receive additional training specific to the vaccine and their role on the team. Team training will take place from 21-22 April and will include briefings, dry run practice sessions, and a slow-time clinic.

Q6. What can I expect when I go to be vaccinated?

A6. CAF members appearing for their vaccination should refer to the map of the vaccination site at the Chief's & Petty Officer's Mess to help orient themselves.

Waiting Area

- Personnel are to show up no earlier than 5 minutes prior to their appointment times, and will be met at the entrance point by a unit point of contact who will check them in.

Consent Area

- When called, personnel will report to consent room. Personnel will receive their immunization card and be directed to change into a medical mask and sanitize their hands. Personnel will then be briefed on the vaccine and provided with an opportunity to read the vaccine information sheet. The vaccination screening will be completed for each person which will include identifying anyone who is high-risk and needs to wait 30 minutes or be deferred to clinic. When complete, personnel will continue to their immunization station.
- If the patient has more specific questions, they can be answered in a private setting by one of the designated consent personnel.
- If the person refuses the vaccine, they can proceed into the recovery room, drop their vaccine card with the medical administrator and exit through the recovery room area. Refusals will be documented by the medical administrator in Canadian Forces Health Information System (CFHIS).

Injection Area

- To get the vaccine, the member will then go to their immunization station. Information of the vaccine care will be verified. The vaccinator will fill out their vaccine log (Service Number and name), fill out the passport, discuss side effects and deliver the vaccine.

Recovery Area

- Once the vaccination is complete, the person will take their vaccine card to the medical administration table located on the recovery side. Their card will be put in a bin. Their exit time will be recorded on the vaccine after care sheet.
- Encounter will be recorded in CFHIS by the medical administrators on-site.

- Personnel can leave after they have waited their designated time (15 or 30 min). This time will be verified at the exit.

Q7. What should I bring to my vaccination time?

A7. Members should arrive with the following:

- An undershirt worn on their person (beneath uniforms);
- Military identification card; and
- A full stomach (please don't skip breakfast)!

Members are required to follow current Public Health Measures and stay home if they are ill and/or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. Medical masks will be provided to members as they arrive at the clinic(s).

Q8. Should I get the vaccine if I am pregnant / nursing? What if I have another medical condition?

A8. Members with specific medical concerns should speak to their individual healthcare providers to ensure they are equipped with as much information as possible to make an informed decision.

Designated consent personnel will also be on-hand during the vaccination clinics to answer any questions members might have.

Q9. Will we be vaccinating civilians?

A9. Civilian employees and military dependents can expect to receive their COVID-19 vaccinations through their provincial health department or public health authority.

An exception to this will be made for the dependants of members slated for OUTCAN postings. They will be included in Priority 3.

Q10. Can CAF members get the vaccine through the Province?

A10. Every CAF member will be eligible for a vaccine through the CAF vaccination program. Under exceptional circumstances there may be occasions where members receive a COVID-19 vaccination through the Province; if this is the case, members are required to call the immunization cell to book an appointment to have their vaccination documented. Members will be required to present their COVID-19 vaccination card and military ID at their appointment.

Q11. What classes of reservists will be able to get the vaccine through MARPAC's CAF vaccination roll-out program?

A11. Class C and Class B over 180 days will be able to get their vaccination through the CAF COVID-19 vaccination program.

Q12. If people are traveling outside of the area for work or have a high-risk family member, are they prioritized?

A12. No. Priorities are set by the Personnel Coordination Centre on behalf of Commander, MARPAC, in accordance with Chief of Defence Staff direction and Public Health Agency of Canada guidelines.