

# Britain to try mix-and-match COVID-19 vaccinations

January 5 2021

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If a second dose of the first COVID-19 vaccine is not available or the

maker is not known, then another vaccine may be used, new British guidelines say, *The New York Times* reported Sunday.

The new guidance contradicts those in the United States, where the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has said that COVID-19 vaccines "are not interchangeable" and that "the safety and efficacy of a mixed-product series have not been evaluated. Both doses of the series should be completed with the same product."

Some experts say the British policy is gambling. "There are no data on this idea whatsoever," John Moore, Ph.D., from Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City, told *The Times*. Britain officials "seem to have abandoned science completely now and are just trying to guess their way out of a mess," he said.

Britain has green-lighted vaccines from Pfizer and AstraZeneca. According to the new guideline, "every effort should be made" to use the same vaccine for the second dose. But if "the same [vaccine](#) is not available, or if the first product received is unknown, it is reasonable to offer one dose of the locally available product" for the second shot.

"This option is preferred if the individual is likely to be at immediate high risk or is considered unlikely to attend again," the guidelines say. Because both vaccines attack the virus in the same way, "it is likely the second dose will help to boost the response to the first dose."

But there is no proof the vaccines are interchangeable.

**More information:** [The New York Times Article](#)

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Citation: Britain to try mix-and-match COVID-19 vaccinations (2021, January 5) retrieved 25 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2021-01-britain-mix-and-match-covid-vaccinations.html>

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