**Information Sheet: Third dose and booster doses of COVID-19 vaccines for eligible individuals who are moderately to severely immunocompromised**

**Key Messages**

* Eligible individuals who are moderately to severely immunocompromised should get a **third dose** of the COVID-19 vaccine eight weeks (56 days) after their second dose as part of an extended primary series. This includes eligible children aged 5 to 11 years old.
* Individuals aged 12 and over who received a three-dose primary series should receive a **first booster dose** after their third dose:
  + 12 to 17 years old can get a first booster dose six months (168 days) after completion of the three-dose primary series
  + 18 years and over can get a first booster dose three months (84 days) after completion of the three-dose primary series
* Third doses and booster doses strengthen the protection of those who may have a weaker immune response after two doses and are at higher risk of serious complications from COVID-19.
* Booster doses are not currently recommended for any individuals under 12 years old.
* In addition, eligible immunocompromised individuals can receive a second booster dose at a recommended interval of five months (140 days) after their first booster dose or at a minimum interval of three months (84 days) after their first booster dose if they are also:
  + aged 60 and over;
  + residents of a long-term care home, retirement home, or Elder Care Lodge;
  + older adults living in other congregate settings that provide assisted-living and health services; or
  + First Nation, Inuit and Métis individual or their non-Indigenous household members aged 18 and over.
* Eligible individuals may need to self-attest as being moderately to severely immunocompromised or provide their prescription, prescription vial, prescription receipt, or a referral from a health care professional at the time of their appointment. A previous third dose referral can be used to present eligibility for booster doses.
* Learn more at ontario.ca/covidvaccineinfo or call the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900 (TTY: 1-866-797-0007).

For more information on the three-dose primary series and booster doses, please refer to the Ministry of Health’s [COVID-19 Vaccine Third and Booster Dose Recommendations](https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/vaccine/COVID-19_vaccine_third_dose_recommendations.pdf).

**Who is eligible for a three-dose primary series**

Individuals might be eligible for a three-dose primary series if they are:

* a transplant recipient (including solid organ transplant and hematopoietic stem cell transplants)
* receiving stable, active treatment (chemotherapy, targeted therapies, immunotherapy) for a malignant hematologic disorder or solid tumor
* in receipt of chimeric antigen receptor (CAR)-T-cell
* an individual with moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (for example, DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
* Stage 3 or advanced untreated HIV infection and those with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
* undergoing active treatment with the following categories of immunosuppressive therapies: anti-B cell therapies (monoclonal antibodies targeting CD19, CD20 and CD22), high-dose systemic corticosteroids, alkylating agents, antimetabolites, or tumor-necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitors and other biologic agents that are significantly immunosuppressive or are taking [specific immunosuppressant medications](https://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/vaccine/COVID-19_vaccine_third_dose_recommendations.pdf) (PDF)
* receiving dialysis (hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis)

**When to get the COVID-19 vaccine following a COVID-19 infection**

* Individuals aged five and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised who become infected\* with COVID-19 before completing or before starting their three-dose primary series, should wait four to eight weeks after their symptoms started or after their positive test (if they had no symptoms) before receiving a dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.
* Individuals aged 12 and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised who become infected\* with COVID-19 after their three-dose primary series but before a booster dose, are recommended to receive a dose three months after their symptoms started or after their positive test (if they had no symptoms).
  + For 12 to 17-year-olds, it should also be at least six months after they completed their three-dose primary series.
* Children with a previous history of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in children (MIS-C) should receive the vaccine dose when they have recovered or more than 90 days since the onset of MIS-C, whichever is longer.
* With informed consent, individuals who are immunocompromised may receive their COVID-19 vaccine once they are asymptomatic and have completed their isolation.

*\* A previous infection of COVID-19 confirmed by a molecular (e.g., PCR) or rapid antigen test, or they had COVID-19 symptoms and were a household contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case.*

**How to book an appointment**

Third dose and booster dose appointments can be booked [through all vaccine channels](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/getting-covid-19-vaccine#where-to-get-your-vaccine), including:

* through the [COVID-19 vaccination portal](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/book-vaccine/)
* by calling the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at [1-833-943-3900](tel:+18339433900)
* directly through [public health units](https://www.phdapps.health.gov.on.ca/phulocator/) that use their own booking system
* through Indigenous-led vaccination clinics
* [participating pharmacies](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/vaccine-locations)
* select primary care settings
* hospital clinics (visit your local hospital or public health unit for booking details, if available in your region)
* mobile or pop-up clinics, (visit your local public health unit website for details, if available in your region)
* [GO-VAXX bus](https://www.ontario.ca/page/go-vaxx-bus-schedule)

Some public health units and pharmacies are now accepting walk-in appointments. Please check each vaccine site’s website for information.