

## 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](https://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](#).

### 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](#) (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](#), including:

- through the [COVID-19 vaccination portal](#)
- by calling the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at [1-833-943-3900](tel:1-833-943-3900)
- directly through [public health units](#) that use their own booking system
- through Indigenous-led vaccination clinics
- [participating pharmacies](#)
- 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](#)

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