

COVID-19 vaccine – CDC and FDA recommendations for 3rd dose

The CDC is recommending that people with a moderately to severely compromised immune system receive a third dose of the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. This includes people who:

- Are receiving cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood.
- Have received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system.
- Have received a stem cell transplant within the last 2 years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system.
- Have moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome or Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome).
- Have advanced or untreated HIV infection.
- Are receiving treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress your immune response.

You have completed 2 doses of an mRNA vaccine (Moderna or Pfizer) and are eligible for a 3rd dose of the Moderna or Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine (you are not eligible if you received a Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine):

- Do not order an antibody test to determine whether or not you should receive a third dose of vaccine as we cannot adequately interpret the results and it should not change your eligibility.
- If you had a serious allergic reaction to your previous COVID-19 vaccine dose, you should not get a 3rd dose without consulting with a provider.
- You must have received two doses of either Moderna or Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.
- You must be at least 28 days beyond the second dose of your COVID-19 vaccine.
- It is recommended that you try to receive the same manufacturer of your original two COVID-19 vaccination (i.e. Moderna or Pfizer).
- It is encouraged that you discuss the third dose with your provider.

The 3rd dose vaccine is meant to enhance your protection against COVID-19 infection, but it is strongly recommended that you should continue to mask, social distance and avoid large crowds.

COVID-19 infection:

- If you have or recently had COVID-19 infection (within the last 30 days), you are not eligible to receive a vaccination until you have completed the appropriate isolation time (20 days minimum for immunocompromised hosts) and have improvement or resolution of your symptoms (no fever for ≥ 24 hours, no shortness of breath, improving cough, etc.). You may delay receiving a third dose of vaccine for up to 90 days.
- If you received COVID-19 monoclonal antibody therapy for treatment of COVID-19 or for prophylaxis after a COVID-19 exposure, you are not eligible to receive a 3rd dose of vaccine until 90 days after the infusion.
- If you received tocilizumab (Actemra) as part of treatment for COVID-19, you must wait 90 days after the treatment until you receive a 3rd dose of vaccine as your immune system will be unable to respond to the vaccine.

Solid organ transplant and bone marrow transplant recipients:

- If you are a solid organ transplant recipient or bone marrow transplant recipient with a recent increase in your immunosuppression for rejection, please discuss with your provider regarding the optimal timing of your 3rd vaccine.
- If you recently received treatment with Anti-thymocyte globulin (ATG) for rejection of your transplant or as part of your initial transplant, you are not eligible to receive the vaccine for at

least 90 days after treatment as your immune system will be unable to respond to the vaccine.

- If you received treatment with a dose of rituximab (Rituxan), you must wait at least 6 months after the treatment until you receive a 3rd dose of vaccine as your immune system will be unable to respond to the vaccine.

Patients with Cancer:

- If you are actively receiving chemotherapy, your immune system is unlikely to be able to respond to the vaccine and you should discuss timing of the 3rd dose with your provider.
- Ideally your blood counts should have fully recovered and you will not be receiving another round of chemotherapy for at least 2 weeks after administration of the vaccine.

Use of other Immunosuppressant medications:

- If you received treatment with a dose of rituximab (Rituxan), you must wait at least 6 months after the treatment until you receive a 3rd dose of vaccine as your immune system will be unable to respond to the vaccine.
- If you received a dose of tocilizumab (Actemra), you must wait 90 days after the treatment until you receive a 3rd dose of vaccine as your immune system will be unable to respond to the vaccine.
- If you are receiving methotrexate, a JAK-2 inhibitor (tofacitinib, ruxolitinib, baricitinib, peficitinib), or cyclophosphamide, discuss the timing of the vaccination with your provider.