

To: Regional Health Authorities, Pharmacists, Physicians and Other Primary Care Providers

From: Dr. Janice Fitzgerald, Chief Medical Officer of Health

Date: January 13, 2022

Re: Booster Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine for Immunocompromised Individuals

On December 3, 2021, the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) provided updated recommendations on [COVID-19 booster doses](#) for certain populations.

Individuals that are moderately to severely immunocompromised includes people with the following conditions:

- Active treatment for solid tumor or hematologic malignancies
- Receipt of solid-organ transplant and taking immunosuppressive therapy
- Receipt of chimeric antigen receptor (CAR)-T-cell therapy or hematopoietic stem cell transplant (within 2 years of transplantation or taking immunosuppression therapy)
- Moderate to severe primary immunodeficiency (e.g., DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Stage 3 or advanced untreated HIV infection and those with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
- Active treatment with the following categories of immunosuppressive therapies: anti-B cell therapies (monoclonal antibodies targeting CD19, CD20 and CD22), high-dose systemic corticosteroids (prednisone equivalent of ≥ 2 mg/kg/day or 20 mg/day if weight > 10 kg, for ≥ 14 days), alkylating agents, antimetabolites, or tumor-necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitors and other biologic agents that are significantly immunosuppressive.

These individuals may have a diminished immune response to the COVID-19 vaccine over time. Moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals can receive a booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine in addition to their 3-dose primary series. A booster dose should be offered at least 22 weeks from the date of their primary series completion.

Based on current NACI recommendations, individuals that are moderately to severely immunocompromised can receive Pfizer-BioNTech Cormirnaty or Moderna Spikevax vaccine for their booster dose. If administering Moderna Spikevax vaccine as the booster, the recommended dosage is 100mcg for those 70 years of age and older and those in congregate living facilities for seniors and 50mcg for all others.