



Durham Region Health Department **FAX about...**

For Health Care Professionals



COVID-19 Vaccine Third doses and Expanded Youth Eligibility

On August 17, the Ontario government announced eligibility for third doses of COVID-19 vaccine for individuals most at risk of serious illness from the virus. In addition, eligibility has been expanded to include all youth born in 2009.

Third doses of COVID-19 vaccine will be offered to specific immunocompromised populations who are at highest risk of a reduced or waning immune response to the vaccine.

The following immunocompromised individuals are eligible for a third dose:

- Transplant recipients (including solid organ transplant and hematopoietic stem cell transplants)
- Patients with hematological cancers (examples include lymphoma, myeloma, leukemia) on active treatment (chemotherapy, targeted therapies, immunotherapy)
- Recipients of an anti-CD20 agent (e.g. rituximab, ocrelizumab, ofatumumab).

These patients will be referred by the most responsible health care provider (e.g. specialist or specialty clinic) to a designated vaccination clinic, where they can receive the vaccine. Pharmacies and primary care providers should not be administering third doses at this time.

Lakeridge Health, in collaboration with the Health Department, are developing a process to ensure seamless referral for these patients. Further information regarding the referral process and vaccination site will be shared when it is available.

Eligibility was also extended to youth born in 2009 and turning 12 years old in 2021 to further support a safer return to school. These individuals can receive Pfizer vaccine beginning August 18, 2021.

August 20, 2021

905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729 | durham.ca/health

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.

