



Durham Region Health Department FAX about...

For Health Care Professionals



COVID-19 Vaccine Third Dose Referrals Expanded: List of Immunosuppressant Medications

On October 7, the Ontario government further updated guidance for eligibility of a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine, adding a **list of immunosuppressant medications** that are eligible for third doses (**see Table 1 below**).

At this time, third doses of the COVID-19 vaccines continue to be offered for the following populations to complete an extended primary COVID-19 vaccine series.

- Individuals receiving active treatment* (e.g., chemotherapy, targeted therapies, immunotherapy) for solid tumour or hematologic malignancies
 - *Active treatment includes patients who have completed treatment within 3 months
- Recipients of solid-organ transplant and taking immunosuppressive therapy
- Recipients of chimeric antigen receptor (CAR)-T-cell therapy or hematopoietic stem cell transplant (within 2 years of transplantation or taking immunosuppression therapy)
- Individuals with moderate to severe primary immunodeficiency (e.g., DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Individuals with stage 3 or advanced untreated HIV infection and those with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
- Individuals receiving 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 (**See Table 1**)
 - **Active treatment for patients receiving B-cell depleting therapy includes patients who have completed treatment within 12 months

Referral Processes

For individuals with the above **medical conditions**, the referral process remains the same:

- The most responsible health care provider (e.g., specialist or specialty clinic) refers the patient to Lakeridge Health to receive their third dose of vaccine
- The referral form is located on the Lakeridge Health website

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.



(visit www.lakeridgehealth.on.ca, then the COVID-19 Vaccine Information section, and look for the NEW Primary Care/Specialist 3rd dose Referral Process) and must be faxed to the hospital at (905) 721-4876

- All patients referred to Lakeridge Health will be contacted, and an appointment will be booked for their third dose of vaccine

For individuals with a **prescription for one of the listed medications** (Table 1 below):

- The patient may be directed to attend a pharmacy or book an appointment at a mass immunization clinic. The patient is required to bring their prescription or medication bottle to the pharmacy or mass immunization clinic for verification
- Patients can book an appointment at a mass immunization clinic, by visiting www.durham.ca/covidvaccines

For **homebound** clients:

- The most responsible health care provider (e.g., specialist or specialty clinic) refers the patient to Lakeridge Health
- The referral form is located on the Lakeridge Health website (visit www.lakeridgehealth.on.ca, then the COVID-19 Vaccine Information section, and look for the NEW Primary Care/Specialist 3rd dose Referral Process) and must be faxed to the hospital at (905) 721-4876.

Table 1: List of Immunosuppressant Medications for Third Doses

Note: This list may not be comprehensive; health care providers may identify patients on other medications that are significantly immunosuppressive. Prescriptions/medication bottles for the below immunosuppressant medications can be presented for third doses. If an individual presents a prescription of a medication that is not listed in Table 1, they will be directed to their health care provider to receive a referral form/letter for a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Class	Generic Name(s)	Brand Name(s)
Steroids (>20 mg per day of prednisone or equivalent for at least 2 weeks)***	prednisone	
	dexamethasone	Decadron
	methylprednisolone	DepoMedrol SoluMedrol Medrol
Antimetabolites	cyclophosphamide	Procytox
	leflunomide	Arava
	methotrexate	Trexall Metoject Otrexup Rasuvo Rheumatrex
	azathioprine	Imuran
	6- mercaptopurine (6-MP)	Purinethol



	mycophenolic acid	Myfortic
	mycophenolate mofetil	Cellcept
Calcineurin inhibitors/mTOR kinase inhibitor	tacrolimus	Prograf Advagraf Envarsus PA
	cyclosporine	Neoral Gengraf Sandimmune
	sirolimus	Rapamune
JAK (Janus kinase) inhibitors	baricitinib	Olumiant
	tofacitinib	Xeljanz
	upadacitinib	Rinvoq
Anti-TNF (tumor necrosis factor)	adalimumab	Humira Amgevita Hadlima Hulio Hyrimoz Idacio
	golimumab	Simponi
	certolizumab pegol	Cimzia
	etanercept	Enbrel Brenzys Erelzi
	infliximab	Remicade Avsola Inflectra Remsima Renflexis
Anti-Inflammatory	Sulfasalazine	Salazopyrin Azulfidine
	5-Aminosalicylic Acid (ASA)/mesalamine	Pentasa
Anti-CD20	Rituximab	Rituxan Ruxience Riximyo Truxima Riabni
	ocrelizumab	Ocrevus
IL-1 RA (interleukin-1 receptor antagonist)	anakinra	Kineret

	canakinumab	Ilaris
Anti-IL6	tocilizumab	Actemra
	sarilumab	Kevzara
Anti-IL12/IL23	ustekinumab	Stelara
Anti-IL17	secukinumab	Cosentyx
	ixekizumab	Taltz
Anti-IL17R	brodalumab	Siliq
Anti-BLyS	belimumab	Benlysta
Anti-IL23	guselkumab	Tremfya
	Risankizumab	Skyrizi
Selective T-cell costimulation blocker	abatacept	Orencia
	fingolimod	Gilenya
S1PR (sphingosine 1-phosphate receptor) agonist	siponimod	Mayzent
	ozanimod	Zeposia
Phosphodiesterase inhibitors	apremilast	Otezla

***As the dosing information may not be included on the patient's prescription, confirmation of the dosage from the individual presenting their prescription is sufficient.

October 19, 2021

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