

December 22, 2021

Dear Transplant Recipient,

We would like to take this opportunity to make sure every eligible transplant recipient in Ontario has received every chance at full vaccination.

Firstly, if you have received both your first and second vaccination doses we would like to congratulate you and your transplant program for completing this. Your patient group has among the highest rates of vaccination in the province and the country. As a result, the hospitalization and severe illness in Ontario transplant patients that we saw at the beginning of the pandemic has decreased dramatically.

For transplant recipients, two doses **do not** provide sufficient protection. As such, third and fourth doses are being offered to provide sufficient protection based on a suboptimal or waning immune response to vaccines and increased risk of COVID-19 infection. The third dose will be considered a completion of an extended primary series (similar to how other vaccines are administered in these populations) and the fourth dose will be considered as a booster dose after the completion of the primary series. With the presence of the Omicron variant, it is essential to stay protected and receive a third dose to complete your vaccine series and a fourth dose as a booster.

Here are a few helpful points in considering a third and/or fourth dose:

- Please identify yourself as a transplant recipient and moderately to severely immunocompromised when you go to a vaccine site
 - You are eligible for a third dose 8 weeks after your second dose date.
 - You are eligible for a booster dose (4th dose) 84 days after your third dose date. Please note that the timing for a booster dose might change depending on Ontario Ministry of Health guidance.
- Exact timing should be decided with the treating provider in order to optimize the immune response from the vaccine series and minimize delays in management of the individual's underlying condition
- Your nearest vaccination clinic should be able to assist you and can be found at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccines-ontario>) or through listed available pharmacies at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/vaccine-locations>.
- You can have either of the mRNA vaccines (Moderna or Pfizer) for your third and fourth doses.

Finally, if you are hesitant to get any vaccination dose, we are here to help you. Transplant programs stand ready to answer your questions and to assist with counselling to help you with your decision. You can log on to <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccines-ontario> for more information and options on how to book an appointment.

Regards,

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