

Extended primary series of COVID-19 vaccine for moderately to severely immunocompromised Nova Scotians

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommends that individuals 6 months of age and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised at the time of any of their primary series doses receive an extended primary series of age-appropriate mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. The extended primary series equates to the authorized primary series plus one additional dose. The recommended schedule for the extended primary series is listed in the [Nova Scotia COVID-19 Vaccine Program – Information for Health Care Professionals](#) document.

Individuals who become moderately to severely immunocompromised more than 14 days after completion of the authorized COVID-19 primary series typically will not need an extended primary series but if eligible for doses after the primary series should receive these doses at an interval of 120 days.

The list of those considered moderately to severely immunocompromised is as follows:

- Immunocompromised due to solid tumour or hematologic malignancies or treatments for these conditions
- Receipt of solid-organ transplant and taking immunosuppressive therapy
- Hematopoietic stem cell transplant (within 2 years of transplantation or taking immunosuppression therapy)
- Immunocompromise due to chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cell therapy targeting lymphocytes
- HIV with AIDS-defining illness or tuberculosis diagnosis in last 12 months before starting vaccine series, **or** severe immune compromise with CD4<200 cells/uL **or** CD4%<15%, (CD4 <500 cells/uL or CD4% <22% if 1 to 5 years of age / CD4 <750 cells/uL or CD4% <26% if 6 months to 12 months of age) **or** without HIV viral suppression
- Recent (within the last 12 months) treatment with the following categories of immunosuppressive therapies: anti-B cell therapies (monoclonal antibodies targeting CD19, CD20 and CD22), high-dose systemic corticosteroids, alkylating agents, antimetabolites, or tumor-necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitors and other biologic agents that are significantly immunosuppressive. A list of eligible treatments can be found [here](#).
- Chronic kidney disease on dialysis
- Moderate to severe primary immunodeficiency with associated humoral and/or cell-mediated immunodeficiency or immune dysregulation. See primary immunodeficiency page [here](#).

*Primary Immunodeficiency: Eligibility for an extended primary series of COVID-19 Vaccine in Nova Scotia

NACI recommends that people with moderate to severe primary immunodeficiency receive an extended primary series of COVID-19 vaccine to optimize protection. Most primary immunodeficiency conditions are quite rare. A full list of primary immunodeficiencies can be found on the [Immunodeficiency Canada website](#).

Not all primary immunodeficiencies cause immunosuppression severe enough to predictably reduce vaccine effectiveness of an authorized primary series of COVID-19 vaccines.

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

novascotia.ca/coronavirus



People with the following primary immunodeficiencies are not eligible for an extended primary series:

- Glycogen Storage Disease
- Goodpasture Syndrome
- Hereditary angioedema
- Hyper-IgD Syndrome
- Immunodysregulation, Polyendocrinopathy and Enteropathy, X-linked
- Mannose Binding Lectin Deficiency
- Selective IgA deficiency
- Selective IgM deficiency
- Transient Hypogammaglobulinemia of Infancy
- Unspecified Hypogammaglobulinemia in people over 16 years of age (children 5 to 16 years of age with unspecified hypogammaglobulinemia are eligible for a third dose)