



November 29, 2021

PHAC Webinar Short:

Updated National Advisory Committee on Immunization recommendations on additional COVID-19 vaccine doses for the immunocompromised



Objectives

- Identify who should receive an **additional** dose on the basis of immune compromise as per the recommendations of the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI)
- Discuss with patients the need and potential impact of an additional dose on their level of protection



Reference materials

National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI): Statements and publications

COVID-19

Current vaccine statements

- November 19, 2021: [Recommendation on the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine \(10mcg\) in children 5 to 11 years of age \(PDF\)](#)
 - [Summary of NACI statement of November 19, 2021 \(PDF\)](#)
- October 29, 2021: [NACI interim guidance on booster COVID-19 vaccine doses in Canada](#)
 - [Summary of NACI interim guidance statement of October 29, 2021](#)
- October 22, 2021: [Recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccines](#)
 - [Summary of updated NACI vaccine statement of October 22, 2021](#)
 - [Table of updates](#)
- September 28, 2021: [NACI rapid response: Booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine in long-term care residents and seniors living in other congregate settings](#)
 - [Summary of NACI rapid response of September 28, 2021](#)
- September 10, 2021: [NACI rapid response: Additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine in immunocompromised individuals following a 1- or 2-dose primary series](#)

The evidence base, rationale and more detailed information about the recommendations discussed in this webinar can be found in the [NACI rapid response statement](#) released on **September 10, 2021**

The National Advisory Committee on Immunization has made recommendations for additional doses of COVID-19 vaccines

People who are **moderately to severely immunocompromised** should get an additional dose of an mRNA vaccine following their primary series.



Additional doses and booster doses are different

An **additional dose** is given following a 1- or 2-dose primary series to improve immunity for those who may have a reduced immune response to previous doses.

A **booster** is a dose following the primary series given due to waning immunity.



Who is considered to be moderately to severely immunocompromised?

People with medical conditions or receiving treatments that include:

- Active treatment for **solid tumour** or **hematologic malignancies**
- **Solid-organ transplant** and taking **immunosuppressive therapy**
- **Chimeric antigen receptor (CAR)-T-cell therapy** or **hematopoietic stem cell transplant**
 - within 2 years of transplantation or taking immunosuppression therapy

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Who is considered to be moderately to severely immunocompromised?

(continued)

- **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 (**AIDS**)
- Active 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
 - tumor-necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitors and other biologic agents that are significantly immunosuppressive

This webinar short, and the scenarios on the following slides, reflect NACI recommendations regarding immunocompromised people as of September 10, 2021

The eligibility for an additional dose is determined by provincial and territorial jurisdictions

- Who is eligible within their jurisdiction may vary from the recommendations provided by NACI

Scenario 1

- Avery, 32 years old, was a kidney transplant recipient 6 years ago
 - They're otherwise in good health
- They are currently taking immunosuppressive therapy
- Is an additional dose recommended for Avery?



Scenario 1: Answer



- An additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine is recommended as they have a history of **solid organ transplant** and receive an **immunosuppressive therapy**
- You can also advise them that:
 - an additional dose may help improve their immune response
 - even after the additional dose, they may still be **less protected than someone who is not immunocompromised** and who has received a complete vaccine series
 - they should continue to use caution and encourage those around them to be vaccinated

Scenario 2



- Andre is 42 years old and is living with HIV
- He is currently on antiretroviral medications and has an undetectable viral load/normal CD4 count
- Is an additional dose recommended for Andre?

Scenario 2: Answer



- Andre is not considered to be moderately or severely immunocompromised:
 - his viral load is undetectable and his CD4 count is normal
 - he does not have advanced untreated HIV or AIDS
- We can therefore expect that his immune system would have developed a robust response to the primary vaccine series.
- An additional dose in his primary series is not recommended.

Scenario 3

- Marie, 62 years old, has type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure and dementia
- She seems to catch every bug and has been told by doctors in the past that she has a slightly weak immune system
- Marie lives with her son, but due to her cognitive deterioration, she will likely be moving into long term care in the coming year
- Is an additional dose recommended for Marie?



Scenario 3: Answer



- Marie is not considered to be moderately to severely immunosuppressed.
 - While Marie has underlying conditions, she does not have a medical condition or receive a treatment that is associated with a moderate to severe immune compromise.
 - We can therefore expect that her immune system would have developed a robust response to the primary vaccine series;
- An additional dose in her primary series is not recommended

Subscribe for NACI publications and updates to the Canadian Immunization Guide

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with the Government of Canada logo and a search bar. Below it is a 'MENU' dropdown. The breadcrumb trail reads: Canada.ca > Health > Healthy living > Vaccines and immunization. The main heading is 'National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI): Statements and publications'. A navigation grid contains buttons for 'Statements and publications', 'Workplan', 'About us', 'Methods and process', 'Meetings', and 'Related'. The main content area contains text about NACI's role and a 'Subscribe for updates' button.

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To receive information regarding updates to the Canadian Immunization Guide and new National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommendations, statements and literature reviews, please enter your e-mail address below and click on the "Subscribe" button.

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- Canadian Immunization Guide
- NACI Recommendations, Statements and Updates

* Please indicate the category which best describes your professional designation and/or training background (required)

- Physician (general practice)
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- Nurse
- Nurse Practitioner/Extended Class
- Pharmacist
- Laboratory Scientist/Laboratory Technician
- Other

If other category, please specify:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci.html>

PHAC Health Care Provider Toolkit:



Contents

- **About COVID-19:** General information including symptoms, prevention and guidance for health care providers, culturally safe care, and statements from the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada
- **Overview of Vaccines:** COVID-19 vaccines in Canada, how to get vaccinated, national vaccination coverage, shipments and deliveries, how vaccines are developed, as well as information for Indigenous Peoples
- **Authorized Vaccines:** Information about COVID-19 vaccines that have been authorized by Health Canada
- **Guidance for Health Care Providers:** Planning guidance on vaccine administration and immunization clinics, NACI recommendations, and guidance on anaphylaxis, vaccine components and pain mitigation
- **Vaccine Confidence:** Information and training on addressing vaccine confidence, and answers to common questions
- **Vaccine Safety:** Overview of vaccine safety, surveillance and reporting, information on possible side effects, and reported side effects in Canada
- **Additional Resources:** Provincial, territorial and stakeholder resources, communications and digital tools, and content and resources for social media platforms
- **Terms of Use:** Information about the Canada wordmark and how the tool kit resources can be used

For more PHAC webinars on COVID-19, visit:



COVID-19 for health professionals: Training

www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/training.html



National Collaborating Centre
for Infectious Diseases
Centre de collaboration nationale
des maladies infectieuses

National Collaborating Centre for Infectious diseases

nccid.ca/phac-webinars-on-covid-19-vaccines



Canadian Vaccination Evidence Resource and Exchange Centre

<https://canvax.ca/canvax-presents-phac-webinar-series-covid-19-vaccines>

Topics include:

- COVID-19 vaccines foundations
- Allergies and low dead volume syringes
- COVID-19 vaccine contraindications
- Revaccination with a COVID-19 vaccine following an immediate severe reaction (e.g. anaphylaxis)
- Other recommendations from NACI on the use of COVID-19 vaccines