

More People Can Get the Third Dose of a COVID-19 Vaccine

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This document is meant to simplify information from the governments of Ontario and Toronto. It is not meant to provide or take the place of medical advice, diagnosis or treatment, or legal advice.

For most people, two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine give strong protection against catching COVID-19 and its variants, as well as suffering from severe symptoms.* But some specific groups of people are at a higher risk of serious illness from the virus, and these people qualify for a third dose.*

In August, the Ontario government announced who can get a third dose of the vaccine:

- Anyone who has received a transplant (including solid organ transplant and hematopoietic stem cell transplants)
- People with hematological cancers (including lymphoma, myeloma, leukemia) who are going through active treatment (chemotherapy, targeted therapies, immunotherapy)
- People who receive an anti-CD20 agent (such as rituximab, ocrelizumab, ofatumumab)
- People who live in high-risk congregate settings including Long-Term Care homes, higher-risk licensed retirement homes and First Nations elder care lodges.*

If this applies to you, you are still eligible to get your third dose. Click [here](#) to read more details about these groups in plain language.

In mid-September, the province announced that even more people are eligible. Now, you can get a third dose if:

- You are currently going through active treatment for solid tumors
- You are in receipt of chimeric antigen receptor (CAR)-T-cell
- You have moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome or Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- You have Stage 3 or advanced untreated HIV infection
- You have acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
- You are currently having active treatment with the following categories of immunosuppressive therapies: anti-B cell therapies (such as monoclonal antibodies targeting CD19, CD20 and CD22), high-dose systemic corticosteroids, alkylating agents, antimetabolites, or tumor-necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitors and any other biologic agents that are significantly immunosuppressive.*

If you have questions about your eligibility, please contact the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre at 1-833-943-3900, which is open Monday to Sunday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and capable of providing assistance in 300 languages.*

I am in Toronto. How do I get my third dose?

If you have a primary care provider or specialist, they will contact you directly to give you details on how you can get vaccinated.* Some primary care providers or specialists are able to give you the third dose in their usual building/clinic.* If they can't do this, they will give you a [referral form](#) or letter that confirms your eligibility for the third dose.* If they write a letter for you, make sure that it has your full name and address (that matches your ID) and your health card number.* Please double check this information before you go to your appointment!*

You will need to present the completed referral form or letter to a City-run clinic, hospital clinic or a pharmacy that gives out COVID-19 vaccines.* If you can, you should try to get a third dose that is the same brand of vaccine that you got for your second dose.* For example, if you got Pfizer and then Moderna, try to get Moderna for your third dose.

Click [here](#) to find the COVID-19 vaccination clinic in Toronto that is closest to you. Once you click on the name of the location, you can see if you need to book an appointment or if you can just walk in. If you can't see that information right away, click on "more details."

I am homebound in Toronto. Can I get my third dose at home?

Yes, you are eligible to be vaccinated at home if you're in Toronto, you were born in 2009 or earlier, and you can't leave your house for medical, physical, cognitive, or psychosocial reasons. An essential caregiver who lives with you can also be vaccinated.*

Please register through the health service that you are currently linked with:

- Your primary care provider / physician primary care team: Primary care teams will identify who is eligible for in-home vaccination, conduct screening, and get consent.* Please connect with your primary care provider to follow up on your vaccination schedule.*
- Homecare and Community Service provider: They will identify who is eligible for in-home vaccination, conduct screening, and get consent.* Please connect with your homecare or community service provider to follow up on your vaccination schedule.*
- Home and Community Care Support Services: They will identify patients with chronic homecare needs, conduct screening and get consent.* Toronto Paramedic Services will schedule and complete vaccinations.*
- If you are not linked with any primary care or homecare provider, call Toronto Seniors Helpline at 416-217-2077 (even if you are not a senior!)* The service can help people who are homebound determine if they are eligible for in-home vaccination.* The helpline can also help people who are able to leave their homes

with information about transportation options to a City-run immunization clinic.*
Remember that [transportation support](#) is available if you need help getting to a clinic.*

If you receive care through both primary care or homecare and Home and Community Care Support Services, please contact your primary or homecare provider first. If your primary care or homecare service provider cannot provide the vaccine, you will be referred to Toronto Paramedic Services.

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If you think you may be experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, take the self-assessment at www.ontario.ca/coronavirus. Follow all directions from your medical provider or your local health unit at the following phone numbers:

Telehealth Ontario: 1-866-797-0000

Toronto Public Health: 416-338-7600

Peel Public Health: 905-799-7700

Durham Region Health Department: 905-668-7711

York Region Public Health: 1-877-464-9675