


Wednesday, 17 April 2024

[Health Protection](#)



**DoH**  
www.health-ni.gov.uk

**HSC** Health and Social Care

**COVID-19 vaccine**

## for people with a weakened immune system

People who have a severely weakened immune system are being offered a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine. This is to help improve any protection you may have built from your first 2 doses.

### What is COVID-19 or coronavirus?

COVID-19 is a very infectious respiratory disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. It can be very serious in people who have a weakened immune system. There is no cure for COVID-19 although some newly tested treatments do help to reduce the risk of complications.

### Why am I being offered a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine?

This third dose is being offered to all those aged 12 years and older who had a weakened immune system around the time they had their first 2 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. It is possible that you may not have responded as well as other people. This third dose may help to improve your immune response and give you better protection.

Your specialist can advise whether this applies to you. By having the third dose you may reduce your chance of catching the COVID-19 infection.

And, if you do, the symptoms may be less severe and the illness shorter, than if you had not had the third vaccination.

People who need a third dose are those who had a severely weakened immune system around the time they had their first 2 doses. This includes those who had or have:

- blood cancers (such as leukaemia or lymphoma)
- lowered immunity due to treatment (such as steroid medication, biological therapy, chemotherapy or radiotherapy)
- lowered immunity due to inherited disorders of the immune system
- an organ or bone marrow transplant
- diseases that affect the immune system such as poorly controlled HIV
- other diseases or treatments as advised by your specialist

This leaflet explains about a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine being offered to people with a severely weakened immune system to boost their protection against the COVID-19 virus.

A large print accessible version of this leaflet is available below as a Word document.

## Details

Format

A5 2 pages

Target group

People who have a weakened immune system

# Downloads

Attachment	Size
<a href="#">COVID-19 Weakened immune systems A5 2pp flyer 0424 FINAL.pdf</a>	308.3 KB
<a href="#">COVID-19 vaccine for people with a weakened immune system large print version.docx</a>	15.72 KB

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