

COVID-19 vaccine for stem cell transplant patients

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Summary of advice from the JCVI: Protecting stem cell transplant patients from COVID-19 with a third primary dose or booster vaccine

Notes:

- Applies only to patients aged 12 years and over – COVID-19 vaccines are not licensed for use in individuals aged under 12.
- Patients who receive COVID-19 vaccination *before* stem cell transplant or CAR-T therapy should be re-vaccinated with all three primary doses. The timing of re-vaccination should be in line with **BSMTCT recommendations** i.e. 2-6 months after transplant or 3-6 months after CAR-T. **Use this template to arrange re-vaccination.**
- The JCVI has not yet made a recommendation for the timing of a booster (4th) dose for individuals with severe immunosuppression.

	Patients who should receive a third primary dose of a COVID-19 vaccine	Patients who should receive a booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Patients within 24 months of receiving an autologous or allogeneic stem cell transplant at the time of their first or second dose. ■ Patients at any time after transplant who had ongoing immunosuppression or graft versus host disease (GVHD) at the time of their first or second dose. <p>➤ Link to full JCVI third primary dose guidance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Patients over 24 months of receiving an autologous or allogeneic stem cell transplant AND who did not have immunosuppression or graft versus host disease (GVHD) at the time of their first or second dose. <p>➤ Link to full JCVI booster guidance</p>
Timing	Ideally at least 8 weeks after the second dose. The decision on timing of the third dose should be made by the specialist involved in the care of the patient.	The JCVI recommend that the reinforcing (booster) dose should be offered no earlier than six months after completion of the primary vaccine course.
Choice of vaccine	<p>For those aged over 18 years JCVI advises a preference for mRNA vaccines – Pfizer BioNTech (Comirnaty®) or Moderna (Spikevax®) for the third primary dose.</p> <p>For 12-17 year olds Pfizer BioNTech (Comirnaty®) is preferred.</p> <p>AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine (Vaxzevria®) is an option for individuals who have received this vaccine previously where this would help to improve implementation. In exceptional circumstances, persons aged 40 years or over who received a mRNA COVID-19 vaccine previously may be offered a third dose of AstraZeneca Vaxzevria vaccine following a decision by a health professional on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is preferred as a booster dose irrespective of the vaccine used for the primary course. As an alternative, individuals may be offered a half dose (50µg) of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. The latter appears to give very good immune responses and is expected to be less reactogenic than a full dose (Choi et al, 2021).</p> <p>Where mRNA vaccines are not suitable, vaccination with AstraZeneca vaccine may be considered in those who were primed with the same vaccine.</p>
Identification and booking	<p>Specialists are responsible for identifying and contacting patients in their care who should receive a third dose.</p> <p>For those based in England refer to this guidance on the identification and booking process.</p>	<p>Individuals will be invited to book their booster vaccination by the National Booking System or via their local practice.</p> <p>For those based in England refer to this guidance on the identification and booking process.</p>