

COVID-19 Vaccine and Cancer: Third Doses

As a person living with cancer, you may have questions about whether you will need a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

All vaccinations should only be considered after careful assessment of the risks and benefits. Talk to your cancer care team if you have questions about the vaccine and your unique situation.

I have had two doses of COVID-19 vaccine. Will I need a third dose?

Studies have shown that for most people, two doses of vaccine provide a high level of protection from COVID-19. However, how well the vaccine works depends on the strength of your immune system. Some cancers or cancer treatments can weaken your immune system. In this situation, getting another dose of vaccine might help better protect you.

In Nova Scotia, people who have been treated with certain drugs for cancer such as chemotherapy, immunotherapy or targeted agents during the last year are eligible for a third dose.

If you were treated for your cancer with radiation therapy, hormones, or surgery **ONLY**, you will **NOT** need a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

If you think you are eligible for a third dose, you can book an appointment starting October 19, 2021 through <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/book-your-vaccination-appointment/>. If you have any records from your cancer treatment, you can bring them with you to your appointment, however, **it is not required**. The vaccination clinic will review your information to make sure you are eligible once you arrive for your appointment. Your third dose must be at least 28 days after your second dose.

I still have questions about the vaccine. Who should I talk to?

If you have any questions about the vaccine and your eligibility, you can visit <https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/vaccine/#additional-doses> for more information. You can also speak to your family doctor, nurse practitioner, or pharmacist. If you are currently on treatment for cancer, your cancer care team will also be happy to answer any questions.

*Nova Scotia Health promotes a smoke-free, vape-free, and scent-free environment.
Please do not use perfumed products. Thank you!*

Nova Scotia Health
www.nshealth.ca

*Prepared by: Nova Scotia Health Cancer Care Program
Approved by: Nova Scotia Health Cancer Care Program Education Team
Designed by: Cancer Care Program Staff*

The information in this brochure is for informational and educational purposes only.

The information is not intended to be and does not constitute health care or medical advice.

If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider. The information in this pamphlet is to be updated every 3 years or as needed.