

**To:** Nova Scotia Health Care Practitioners and Immunizers

**From:** Dr. Shelley Deeks, Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health

**Date:** April 4, 2022

**Re:** ***COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Doses for Moderately to Severely Immunocompromised Individuals***

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In alignment with the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), Nova Scotians 5 years of age and older who meet [moderate to severe immunocompromise criteria](#) at the time of their first or second dose of COVID-19 vaccine are recommended to receive and are eligible for a third primary series dose of age-appropriate mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. A vaccine schedule of 28 days between dose one and dose two, and 56 days between dose two and dose three is recommended. Individuals 12 years of age or older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised are also eligible for a booster dose (i.e., a fourth dose) 168 days after their third primary series dose.

Some individuals 12 years of age and older who met the criteria for [moderate to severe immunocompromise](#) at the time of their first two COVID-19 vaccine doses, received their third dose 168 days or later (i.e., as a booster dose). These individuals are eligible for an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine (i.e. a fourth dose) 56 days (8 weeks) after their third dose. Moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals who are booking their booster dose at a 56-day interval should email [C19compassionate@novascotia.ca](mailto:C19compassionate@novascotia.ca). When emailing, individuals will be required to indicate how they meet [moderate to severe immunocompromise criteria](#). Individuals should be aware that immunization providers may confirm eligibility criteria and that they should bring a list of medications and other documentation which they may have (e.g. prescription bottles, insurance notes) regarding eligibility for a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

Individuals who become moderately to severely immunocompromised more than 14 days after completion of the two-dose COVID-19 primary series typically will not need a third primary series dose but should receive a booster dose 168 days following completion of the two-dose primary series if they are 12 years of age or older.