

Ministry of Health

# Clinic Guide to Verifying Immunosuppressive Prescriptions for Third Doses of COVID-19 Vaccine

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This guidance provides basic information only and is not intended to provide or take the place of medical advice, diagnosis or treatment, or legal advice.

The following information is guidance for COVID-19 vaccination clinics administering third doses of COVID-19 to individuals receiving immunosuppressive therapies who present a prescription of their medication. See the [COVID-19 Vaccine Third Dose Recommendations](#) for more information. This guide can be adapted as needed based on the context of specific immunization clinics.

If an individual is receiving an immunosuppressive biologic agent and they do not have a prescription, or their drug prescription is not listed below, they can receive a referral form/letter from their health care provider for a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. As per the [COVID-19 Vaccine Third Dose Recommendations](#), the exact timing of third doses for immunocompromised individuals should be decided with the treating provider in order to optimize the immune response from the vaccine series and minimize delays in management of their underlying condition

## Step 1: Verify Prescription Details

- The individual should present a current prescription receipt from a pharmacy, or present a current medication bottle/package that includes the following information:
  - Date of prescription
    - To be considered current, the prescription should be prescribed or refilled within the past 6 months.
    - Active treatment for patients receiving B-cell depleting therapies (monoclonal antibodies targeting CD19, CD20 and CD22) includes patients who have completed treatment within 12 months.
  - Patients first and last name

- The first and last name should be compared to a piece of identification.
- Address and telephone number of the pharmacy

## Step 2: Cross-Reference Drug Name

- Confirm that the drug name is listed in Table 1 below.
- Table 1 provides a list of immunosuppressive medications that qualifies individuals to receive a third dose.
  - This list may not be comprehensive. If an individual presents a prescription of a medication that is not listed in Table 1, they should be directed to their healthcare provider to receive a referral form/letter for a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

## Step 3: Administer Vaccine

- If the individual's prescription is deemed valid and the drug name is listed in the table below, a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine can be administered and documented into COVax following informed consent.

**Table 1a: List of Immunosuppressant Medications for Third Doses**

Class	Generic Name(s)	Brand Name(s)
Steroids (>20 mg per day of prednisone or equivalent for at least 2 weeks) <sup>1</sup>	• prednisone	
	• dexamethasone	• Decadron
	• methylprednisolone	• DepoMedrol • SoluMedrol • Medrol
Antimetabolites	• cyclophosphamide	• Procytox
	• leflunomide	• Arava
	• methotrexate	• Trexall • Metoject • Otrexup • Rasuvo • Rheumatrex

<sup>1</sup> As the dosing information may not be included on the patient's prescription, confirmation of the dosage from the individual presenting their prescription is sufficient.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• azathioprine</li> <li>• 6- mercaptopurine (6-MP)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Imuran</li> <li>• Purinethol</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mycophenolic acid</li> <li>• mycophenolate mofetil</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Myfortic</li> <li>• Cellcept</li> </ul>
Calcineurin inhibitors/mTOR kinase inhibitor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• tacrolimus</li> <li>• cyclosporine</li> <li>• sirolimus</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prograf</li> <li>• Advagraf</li> <li>• Envarsus PA</li> <li>• Neoral</li> <li>• Gengraf</li> <li>• Sandimmune</li> <li>• Rapamune</li> </ul>
JAK (Janus kinase) inhibitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• baricitinib</li> <li>• tofacitinib</li> <li>• upadacitinib</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Olumiant</li> <li>• Xeljanz</li> <li>• Rinvoq</li> </ul>
Anti-TNF (tumor necrosis factor)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• adalimumab</li> <li>• golimumab</li> <li>• certolizumab pegol</li> <li>• etanercept</li> <li>• infliximab</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Humira</li> <li>• Amgevita</li> <li>• Hadlima</li> <li>• Hulio</li> <li>• Hyrimoz</li> <li>• Idacio</li> <li>• Simponi</li> <li>• Cimzia</li> <li>• Enbrel</li> <li>• Brenzys</li> <li>• Erelzi</li> <li>• Remicade</li> <li>• Avsola</li> <li>• Inflectra</li> <li>• Remsima</li> <li>• Renflexis</li> </ul>
Anti-Inflammatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sulfasalazine</li> <li>• 5-Aminosalicylic Acid (ASA)/mesalamine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salazopyrin</li> <li>• Azulfidine</li> <li>• Pentasa</li> </ul>

Anti-CD20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rituximab</li> <li>• ocrelizumab</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rituxan</li> <li>• Ruxience</li> <li>• Riximyo</li> <li>• Truxima</li> <li>• Riabni</li> <li>• Ocrevus</li> </ul>
IL-1 RA (interleukin-1 receptor antagonist)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• anakinra</li> <li>• canakinumab</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kineret</li> <li>• Ilaris</li> </ul>
Anti-IL6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• tocilizumab</li> <li>• sarilumab</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actemra</li> <li>• Kevzara</li> </ul>
Anti-IL12/IL23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ustekinumab</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stelara</li> </ul>
Anti-IL23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• guselkumab</li> <li>• risankizumab</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tremfya</li> <li>• Skyrizi</li> </ul>
Selective T-cell costimulation blocker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• abatacept</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Orencia</li> </ul>
S1PR (sphingosine 1-phosphate receptor) agonist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fingolimod</li> <li>• siponimod</li> <li>• ozanimod</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gilenya</li> <li>• Mayzent</li> <li>• Zeposia</li> </ul>
Phosphodiesterase inhibitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• apremilast</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Otezla</li> </ul>

**Table 1b: List of Immunosuppressant Brand Names in Alphabetical Order**

Actemra	Hulio	Prograf	Tremfya
Adacio	Humira	Purinethol	Trexall
Amgevita	Hyrimoz	Rapamune	Truxima
Arava	Ilaris	Rasuvo	Xeljanz
Avsola	Imuran	Remicade	Zeposia
Azulfidine	Inflectra	Remsima	
Benlysta	Kevzara	Renflexis	
Brenzys	Kineret	Rheumatrex	
Cellcept	Mayzent	Rinvoq	
Cimzia	Medrol	Rituxan	
Cosentyx	Metoject	Riximyo	
Cytosan	Myfortic	Ruxience	
Decadron	Neoral	Salazopyrin	
DepoMedrol	Ocrevus	Sandimmune	
Enbrel	Olumiant	Siliq	
Entyvio	Orencia	Simponi	
Erelzi	Otezla	Skyrizi	
Gengraf	Otrexup	SoluMedrol	
Gilenya	Pentasa	Stelara	
Hadlima	Procytox	Taltz	