



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago  
Ministry of Health

# Additional Primary Dose of a COVID-19 Vaccine





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# Extended Primary Series



- An additional primary dose of a vaccine is given to enhance the immune response of individuals in certain groups (e.g. the elderly and the immunocompromised)
- As such, it now forms part of the WHO primary series for these groups



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# **Interim Recommendation # 1 as it relates to Sinopharm COVID-19 Vaccine:**

To administer an additional (3<sup>rd</sup>) vaccine dose to persons aged 60 years and over, regardless of disease state.



NB: The RHAs will contact the relevant persons in this category to schedule the additional primary dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.



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## Persons 60 years and older

- Third dose administered
- 3 to 6 months after the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose



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## **Interim Recommendation #2 as it relates to immunocompromised persons:**

To administer an additional COVID-19 vaccine dose to moderately to severely immunocompromised persons





## Applicable to the following Immunocompromised Persons:

Group	Details
<b>Active Cancer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Active immunosuppressive treatment for solid tumour or haematological malignancy (including leukaemia, lymphoma, and myeloma), or within 12 months of ending such treatment</li></ul>
<b>Transplant Recipients</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Receipt of solid organ transplant and taking immunosuppressive therapy</li><li>• Receipt of stem cell transplant (within 2 years of transplantation, or taking immunosuppressive therapy)</li></ul>
<b>Immunodeficiency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Severe primary immunodeficiency</li><li>• Chronic dialysis</li></ul>
<b>HIV</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•HIV with a current CD4 cell count of &lt;200 cells/<math>\mu</math>l, evidence of an opportunistic infection, not on HIV treatment, and/or with a detectable viral load (i.e. advanced HIV disease)</li></ul>
<b>Immunosuppressives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Active treatment causing significant immunosuppression, including high-dose corticosteroids, alkylating agents, antimetabolites, transplant-related immunosuppressive drugs, cancer chemotherapeutic agents, tumour-necrosis factor (TNF) blockers, or other highly immunosuppressive drugs</li><li>• Immunosuppressive chemotherapy or radiotherapy within the past 6 months</li></ul>

Table courtesy the World Health Organization



## Additional Primary Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine for Immunocompromised Persons by Vaccine Type

Vaccine/Manufacturer	Recommendation
<b>AstraZeneca</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Additional 3<sup>rd</sup> dose taken 1 to 3 months after 2<sup>nd</sup> dose</li><li>•Persons 18 years and older</li></ul>
<b>Sinopharm</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Additional 3<sup>rd</sup> dose taken 1 to 3 months after 2<sup>nd</sup> dose</li><li>•Persons 18 years and older</li></ul>
<b>Pfizer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Additional 3<sup>rd</sup> dose taken 1 to 3 months after 2<sup>nd</sup> dose</li><li>•Persons 12 years and older</li></ul>
<b>Johnson and Johnson</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Additional 2<sup>nd</sup> dose taken 1 to 3 months after 1<sup>st</sup> dose</li><li>•Persons 18 years and older</li></ul>



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## Standard Practice:

The additional vaccine dose (whether for persons 60 years and over or immunocompromised) should be the **same** vaccine product used in the first instance





## Referral Letter

- If you are immunocompromised, please present a referral letter from your attending physician when you go to a COVID-19 vaccination facility
- Certain groups will be given the additional primary dose at specific sites

