

THIRD DOSE FACTS: COVID-19 VACCINES

Will I need additional information or documentation to get the third dose?

State and federal officials have directed that no prescriptions, authorization letters or antibody testing are required to qualify for an additional dose. You will likely be asked to attest to the fact that you are eligible for the third dose, and may need to present your insurance card.

★ **IMPORTANT:** Wherever you are vaccinated, you will need to present your COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card/Excelsior Pass.



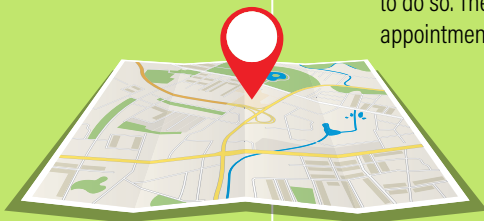
Where can I get my third COVID-19 vaccine dose?

Roswell Park has begun offering third-dose vaccination appointments to our patients whose immune systems are most severely compromised:

- ✓ Inpatients admitted for care in our hospital
- ✓ Patients in active treatment for leukemia, lymphoma or multiple myeloma, or
- ✓ Patients who have received cellular therapy, including BMT/stem cell transplants, in the last 2 years.

Patients in those three groups will be contacted directly by Roswell Park either during or before a scheduled clinic visit to coordinate third-dose administration. We are currently working to expand opportunities for additional Roswell Park patients to receive a third dose at Roswell Park.

We encourage all our eligible patients to seek out a third COVID vaccine dose as soon as you have the opportunity to do so. The most important thing is that you get fully vaccinated and protected from COVID-19 — do not wait for an appointment at Roswell Park if you have an earlier opportunity to get the vaccine.



Additional resources for scheduling a third COVID-19 vaccine dose:

- Erie County, NY, Department of Public Health vaccination sites
- New York State-run vaccination sites
- VaccineFinder/Vaccines.gov
- CVS
- Rite-Aid
- Walgreens

We advise that you complete any online forms in advance. Don't forget your vaccination card, insurance cards and identification.

Will COVID-19 vaccination affect my cancer treatment? Do my blood counts have to be at certain levels for me to receive the third dose?

The authorized COVID-19 vaccines have been shown to be safe for cancer patients, including those in active treatment for cancer. No white cell counts or other testing are needed to determine your eligibility for the third dose.

Is a third dose the same as a COVID-19 vaccine booster?

While the terms are sometimes used interchangeably, they are intended for distinct recipients and purposes.

Third or additional COVID-19 vaccine doses for immunocompromised individuals are given to vaccinated people whose immune systems are severely weakened by particular health conditions or medical treatment, to help them develop immunity to COVID-19.

Boosters are given to extend protection against COVID-19 in vaccinated individuals who are not severely immunocompromised. A booster shot is needed because the effectiveness of the initial dose(s) diminishes over time.

Should I get the same vaccine I got for the first two doses?

Where possible, we advise that you get the same vaccine for your third dose that you had for your first two doses. But if your first vaccine type (Moderna or Pfizer) is not available, it is safe for you to get the other vaccine.

Are cancer patients eligible for booster shots? Can I get my third dose and my booster at the same time?

While booster shots have not been authorized yet in the U.S., federal officials have announced their intention to allow booster doses for Americans 12 and over previously vaccinated with two doses of either the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine, and who are not severely immunocompromised. Many cancer patients will be included in those eligible for the boosters when they are made available, anticipated for mid-late September.

At this time, there is not enough evidence to suggest that booster shots will be appropriate for severely immunocompromised individuals. While studies are underway to assess this possibility, right now boosters are not currently recommended for anyone eligible for a third (additional) dose.