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## What to Know About the Third COVID-19 Vaccine

Ochsner Health is now administering an additional, or third, COVID-19 vaccine for immunocompromised individuals who meet certain criteria laid out by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH). Get the facts on this additional vaccine and learn if you or your loved ones qualify for the third shot.

**FACT: The additional vaccine dose is approved for individuals with immunocompromising conditions and for those on medications that suppress their immune systems.**

**The criteria for the additional vaccine include individuals who:**

- Are receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood
- Have received an organ transplant and are currently taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Have received a stem cell transplant within the last two years or are currently taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Have a moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome or Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Have an advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Are in active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids (> 20 mg prednisone or equivalent per day) or other drugs that may suppress your immune response
- Have other conditions which cause moderate or severe immunosuppression similar to the above conditions.

**FACT: Those receiving the additional vaccine should continue taking measures to protect themselves and others.**

During this time of uncontrolled viral spread, even those who have received third shots should protect themselves and others by practicing good hand hygiene, wearing face masks and social distancing in public. Avoiding large gatherings completely will further reduce your risk.

**FACT: The third dose of the vaccine is approved for Pfizer and Moderna recipients only.**

At this time, the CDC and FDA have not authorized additional shots for those who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. If you originally received the Pfizer vaccine, your third dose should be Pfizer. If you originally received the Moderna vaccine, your third dose should be Moderna.

**FACT: You can schedule your additional vaccine appointment with Ochsner today.**

If you qualify as an immunocompromised individual, schedule your third vaccine appointment today. MyOchsner users can check availability and schedule their vaccinations at [Ochsner.org/MyOchsner](https://Ochsner.org/MyOchsner), or you can call **844-888-2772**. Appointments are encouraged, but walk-ups are welcome.

**FACT: You should discuss getting the third dose with your doctor.**

The additional vaccine is not for everyone. Please talk with your healthcare provider about your medical condition to see if getting an additional dose is appropriate for you.

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Schedule your vaccination appointment on the MyChart portal today. Visit [Ochsner.org/vaccine](https://Ochsner.org/vaccine) for more facts, or call **844-888-2772** with any additional questions. For more COVID-19 information and resources, visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention ([cdc.gov](https://cdc.gov)) or the Louisiana Department of Health ([ldh.la.gov](https://ldh.la.gov)) website.