

August 30, 2021

To LHSC Organ Transplant Recipients:

The Multi-Organ Transplant Program at the London Health Sciences Centre are recommending that all of our recipients who have already received 2 doses of a vaccine, should receive a third dose. This third dose is expected to significantly improve your protection. This recommendation is endorsed by the Canadian Society of Transplantation as well the transplant infectious diseases physicians at LHSC.

Although COVID-19 vaccines have a protection rate of 90-95% in the general population, studies have shown the response is lower in organ transplant recipients to an average of 45% after 2 doses. COVID-19 infections can still occur in fully vaccinated organ transplant recipients. Studies have shown that a third dose of the Pfizer or the Moderna vaccine can improve the antibody response in organ transplant recipients. There were no serious adverse events in the patients who received a third dose in any of the published studies to date.

The Middlesex London Health Unit (MLHU) has set up the following process for recipients being vaccinated within our region:

1. A referral form will be required. It is available on our website.
2. The referral form is your proof of eligibility. Anyone arriving for a 3rd dose without the form will be turned away from the Vaccine Clinics in the MLHU region.
3. Providers (people who can sign the referral form for the 3rd dose) include Physicians, Nurse Practitioners and Pharmacists.
4. Primary Care Physicians in the MLHU region will be notified by the MLHU that you are eligible and will have the referral form.
5. The Ministry of Health is notifying all Pharmacist in MLHU region of 3rd dose process. It is suggested that you contact your Pharmacist to assure that they are set up to offer the 3rd dose.
6. Effective August 30, 2021 the London Agriplex Vaccination Centre as well as ALL other Middlesex London Vaccine Clinics will accept transplant recipients with a 3rd dose referral form. Walk-ins are welcome. Appointments are available only by phone 226-289-3560 (9:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday to Sunday).
7. Note Vaccine Centres have reduced hours and are open on different days of the week. For hours of availability, check the MLHU website: <https://www.healthunit.com/covid-19-vaccine-eligibility#hours>
  - The Agriplex Vaccination Centre (845 Florence St, London): Thursday-Monday, 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM (both Pfizer and Moderna)
8. There are new on-site Vaccination Clinics at University Hospital and Victoria Hospital - no appointment is required but you will need a signed referral form. If you have an appointment at the hospital, you get signed referral form in the Transplant Clinic.
  - University Hospital - B3 (third floor by the auditorium, the old library) Monday-Friday, 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM (Pfizer only)
  - Victoria Hospital - B1 (by the Foundation Offices) Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM (Pfizer only)
9. Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are interchangeable for your 3<sup>rd</sup> dose - you may choose to have the same vaccine as your 2<sup>nd</sup> dose but if it is not available, you can accept either.

Some primary care physicians are offering vaccines so you may be able to get your third dose this way. You should check with them. For recipients outside of the MLHU region, we encourage you to check with your local unit. We know that some units are accepting walk ins.

Finally and importantly, please remember to continue to practice safe COVID-19 preventive measures including physical distancing, mask wearing while indoors and hand washing. Please stay safe!

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