

Vaccinations and Transplantation Information for Transplant Recipients

Why are vaccinations important?

After your transplant, you will be on medications that suppress your immune system. You are at a higher risk for infections and will benefit from immunization.

Patients are encouraged to get the necessary vaccinations while waiting for transplant. This is important as not all vaccinations are safe to be given after transplant.

Tips about vaccinations

- ✓ Some vaccines are not required after transplant if you have been vaccinated before your transplant. When sorting out which vaccinations are needed, it is helpful to know which ones you've had – Bring your vaccination records with you to Clinic.
- ✓ If you have had your spleen removed, check with your doctor about your vaccinations.
- ✓ The flu shot is recommended for transplant patients. If you receive your transplant during flu season, wait 1 month after your transplant before having the flu shot.
- ✓ Wait 3-6 months after your transplant for all other vaccinations.
- ✓ All vaccines are covered by OHIP with the exception of SHINGRIX (unless you are between 65 – 70 and have not received Zostavax) and HPV. These may be covered by some private insurance plans.
- ✓ Transplant patients should **NOT** receive live vaccines.
- ✓ COVID-19 vaccines are indicated in a three dose vaccine series. Those are preferably given before your transplant. If you are unable to get it before, then you should get it after you transplant after you check with your transplant team. See the [FAQ on COVID vaccine](#).

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| COVID-19 | Either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna is acceptable. 3 doses are considered a primary series. You should receive booster doses as they become available. Timing of doses should follow Ontario guidelines. For patients unable to receive an mRNA vaccine, the Novavax Nuvaxovid vaccine may be an option. | It is preferred that you not receive any other vaccines 2 weeks before or 2-4 weeks after each dose. Your transplant team may recommend you have other vaccines during this time if it is needed (e.g. travelling to a country where other vaccines are necessary). |
| Influenza (the flu) | Get the flu shot! High dose (one-time dose) OR Regular dose (need 2 doses, 1 month apart) | Do NOT use live inhaled flu vaccine. |
| Pneumonia | There are <u>two</u> pneumococcal vaccines recommended – you should receive <u>both</u> . 1. Prevnar® 13 (conjugate vaccine) 2. pneumovax® 23 These vaccines should be given 8 weeks apart. | This vaccine is not required again if you were vaccinated before transplant. |



| Infection | Recommended Vaccine | Cautions |
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| Shingles | <p>SHINGRIX – 2 doses, 2 months apart</p> <p>You can still get the SHINGRIX vaccine 6 months after you have had Shingles.</p> <p>Do NOT use Zostavax – this is a live vaccine.</p> | <p>This vaccine is not required again if you were vaccinated before transplant. SHINGRIX is only covered by OHIP for people between the age 65-70 and if you have not received Zostavax. It may be covered by some private insurance plans.</p> |
| Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis | <p>Tdap Vaccine – required every 10 years</p> <p>There are 2 different Tdap vaccines – either is okay based on your age.</p> <p>Boostrix for people age 10 years and older</p> <p>Adacel for people age 10-64</p> | |
| Meningitis | <p>There are different types of meningitis and therefore different vaccines.</p> <p>We recommend getting Menactra which covers the most common types of meningococcal groups (A,C,Y,W).</p> <p>Bexsero[®] covers meningococcal group B.</p> <p>Men-C (Menjugate) vaccine only covers group C (given to those who have had a splenectomy).</p> | <p>It is important to know which type of vaccine you have had – please check with your family doctor.</p> |
| Haemophilus influenza B | <p>Haemophilus influenzae B vaccine (Hib vaccine) should be given after transplant</p> | |
| Hepatitis B | <p>Hepatitis B vaccine</p> <p>Being vaccinated to Hepatitis B does not mean that you are immune – it may take several boosters. After transplant it may be more difficult to achieve immunity. Your Transplant Team will have checked your immunity level using a blood test. If you are not immune, it is recommended that you get a booster or complete the 3-dose series. Immunity needs to be retested after vaccination.</p> | |
| Hepatitis A | <p>If you are planning to travel to a country where Hepatitis A is common, you should be vaccinated. This needs to be done well in advance of your travel. Check with the Transplant Team at least 2 months prior to departure. You will need 2 doses of the vaccine. The last dose needs to be at least 2 weeks before departure.</p> | |
| Human papillomavirus (HPV) | <p>4-Valent HPV vaccine (4vHPV) is recommended for anyone less than 45 years old.</p> | <p>4vHPV is not covered by OHIP but may be covered by some private insurance plans.</p> |
| Measles | <p>Do NOT vaccinate for measles after transplant – MMR vaccine is live vaccine. Protection against measles is usually checked before transplant and MMR vaccine maybe given then if your transplant doctor approves.</p> | |

