Third dose of the COVID-19 vaccination for severely immunodeficient patients and those who received the first and second dose less than six weeks apart

The City of Helsinki will give a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine to severely immunodeficient patients and those who received the first and second dose less than six weeks apart.

Those with severe immunodeficiency

The third dose will be given to people aged 12 and over whose immune response is significantly reduced due to illness or treatment.

At the vaccination point, the person must prove that they are considered severely immunodeficient. This can be done by presenting a copy of medical records or an extract from the Omakanta service.

The group of patients with severe immunodeficiency is not the same group as the COVID-19 risk groups 1 and 2 determined in the spring. You can find definitions of severe immunodeficiency on the following page.

The third dose can be provided to severely immunodeficient patients who had their second vaccine dose at least two months previously.

Those who received their first and second dose less than six weeks apart

People aged 85 or over, social welfare and health care professionals and emergency carers are among those who received their first and second dose less than six weeks apart.

They may receive their third dose when at least six months have passed since their second vaccination.

Third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine without appointment at vaccination points in Helsinki

Centralised vaccination points and pop-up-vaccination points as well as their opening hours can be found at hel.fi/vaccination.

Third vaccinations are currently not provided to those who have had COVID-19, unless the person has severe immunodeficiency.

COVID-19 vaccinations are voluntary and free of charge.

In principle, the third dose is the same COVID-19 vaccine as was given for the second dose. However, if necessary, the third dose may be another COVID-19 vaccine.

Even after receiving the vaccination, it remains essential that everyone maintains safe distances, takes care of hand and coughing hygiene, wears a mask and follows all other instructions regarding COVID-19.
Those with severe immunodeficiency

1. Organ transplant
The person belongs to the group of people being vaccinated if:
• they have had an organ transplant and they are taking antirejection medication.

2. Stem cell transplantation
The person belongs to the group of people being vaccinated if:
• they had a stem cell transplantation no more than three years previously, or
• they had a stem cell transplantation more than three years previously and are taking immunosuppressive antirejection medication.

3. Severe or moderate congenital immune deficiency
The person belongs to the group of people being vaccinated if they have a diagnosed severe or moderate hereditary immunodeficiency or decreased immunity for some other reason. Such illnesses and conditions include the following:
• common variable immunodeficiency, CVID;
• cartilage-hair hypoplasia;
• DiGeorge syndrome;
• cyclic neutropenia;
• some other or unspecified neutropenia;
• an immunodeficiency manifesting mainly as an antibody deficiency;
• combined immunodeficiencies;
• an immunodeficiency related to other severe deficiencies;
• other immunodeficiencies, or
• APECED syndrome.

The person does not belong to the group of people being vaccinated if they have:
• IgA deficiency;
• mannose-binding lectin deficiency, or
• partial deficiency of complement factor C4.

4. Immunosuppressive cancer treatment
The person belongs to the group of people being vaccinated if:
• they have received cytostatic chemotherapy within the past 12 months;
• they have been treated for leukaemia or lymphoma with antibody treatment within the past two years.

5. Treating autoimmune diseases with immunosuppressive biological medication or JAK inhibitors
The person belongs to the group of people being vaccinated if:
• they have an autoimmune disease (e.g. ankylosing spondylitis, rheumatoid arthritis, arthritides, ulcerative colitis, Crohn’s disease and psoriasis), treated with
  • biological medicine or
  • JAK inhibitors (product names include Xeljanz/tofacitinib, Olumiant/baricitinib, Rinvoq/upadacitinib, Jyseleca/filogitinib).
  • The group is not exclusive to those taking corticosteroid medication, ciclosporin, azathioprine, methotrexate, sulfasalazine or hydroxychloroquine.

6. Dialysis and severe chronic renal failure
The person belongs to the group if:
• they are undergoing dialysis treatment, or
• they have end-stage renal failure (GFR less than 15 ml/min).

The person does not belong to the group if:
• they have mild, moderate or severe renal failure with a GFR of more than 15 ml/min;
• they have other types of nephropathy.

7. Advanced or untreated HIV
The person belongs to the group if:
• they have been diagnosed with HIV and their CD4 helper cell level is below 200 x 106 cells/l.

The person does not belong to the group if:
• they have been diagnosed with HIV and their CD4 helper cell level is above 200 x 106 cells/l.

8. Other diagnosed severe immunosuppressive state
In this event, the person must have a statement from the doctor treating the disease
• proving that the person suffers from severe immunosuppressive state and need the third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.