



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 19, 2021

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Rock Island County Health Department starting 3rd doses for immunocompromised patients next week

Starting next week, the Rock Island County Health Department will offer third vaccine doses to severely immunocompromised people, as recommended by both the CDC and the Illinois Department of Public Health. The Moderna vaccine is given each Tuesday, and Pfizer is offered on Fridays at the health department, 2112 25th Ave., Rock Island. Hours are 9-noon and 1-4 p.m. both days.

Two important notes:

- Severely immunocompromised patients must bring their vaccination card with them to receive their third dose.
- Qualifying patients also can receive their third dose from any provider, not just the health department. To find your shot, visit [vaccines.gov](https://www.vaccines.gov).

At this time, only people who meet the following criteria will be offered the third dose:

- Been receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood
- Received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Received a stem cell transplant within the last two years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress your immune response

Patients should talk to their healthcare provider about their medical condition and whether getting an additional dose is appropriate for them.

At this time, the health department and our healthcare and pharmacy are not offering third doses to people outside of the above criteria. The CDC announced this week that third vaccine doses for the general population should begin in September. General population patients should receive their third dose eight months after the second dose. The health departments and our health care partners are working on plans for this next phase in the vaccination effort and will share information through these briefings, media partners, and on our social media pages when plans are finalized.

These third shots only apply to mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, not the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Medical studies are ongoing to find out whether a booster shot will increase protection with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Our top priority remains staying ahead of the virus and protecting our residents from COVID-19 with safe, effective, and long-lasting vaccines. This virus is constantly changing, and we are following the science. Vaccines remain the most powerful tool we have against COVID-19. If you haven't been vaccinated yet, you should get vaccinated right away. Almost all the cases of severe disease, hospitalization, and death continue to occur among those not yet vaccinated.

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