

Immunosuppressed Patients – Second and Third Dose Eligibility Criteria for Children and Young People (12-15 Years Old)

Please note that Health Care Professionals are advised to refer to the [COVID-19 Green Book Chapter 14a](#) for clinical advice. The advice in this document has been extracted from the Green Book and prepared as a simple guide to inform practice within the Suffolk and North East Essex CCGs.

What does immunosuppression mean?

Immunosuppression happens to people due to disease or treatment. These people are considered to be at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19. A hospital clinician or GP is able to identify these people, based on their clinical judgements.

How many doses should an immunosuppressed 12 – 15 year old have?

Children and young people aged 12 to 15 years who are recognised as immunosuppressed should receive 2 doses of a vaccine. Their 2nd dose should be administered at an interval of at least 8 weeks.

JCVI advises that a 3rd vaccine dose be offered to individuals aged 12 years and over who have severe immunosuppression. Most individuals whose immunosuppression commenced at least two weeks after the second dose of vaccination do not require an additional primary vaccination at this stage.

The 3rd dose should be given ideally at least 8 weeks after the second dose, with special attention paid to current or planned immunosuppressive therapies.

If a patient has recently had a positive COVID-19 test, vaccination can proceed from 4 weeks after the confirmed COVID infection.

What is the recommended vaccine type?

The preferred vaccine for children and young people aged 15 years old and younger is the Pfizer vaccine. This is because it has the most extensive safety data in those aged 12-15 years. Although Moderna is also approved to be used for this age group, Pfizer is preferred.

Young people who have had a 1st dose of AstraZeneca vaccine, and are eligible for a 2nd dose, should complete with the same vaccine wherever possible.

Who is eligible?

People are considered to be eligible for their 2nd dose vaccination and/or 3rd dose vaccination if they are 12 years or above and are immunosuppressed OR share living accommodation on most days with **individuals of any age** who are immunosuppressed.

There is separate guidance for individuals aged 16+ who are immunosuppressed or who are living in a household with an immunosuppressed individual.

How can eligible patients receive a vaccination?

If a patient is eligible for their 2nd dose vaccination and/or 3rd dose vaccination, they should have already been contacted by their GP or hospital consultant and offered an appointment. This appointment should be at either their GP surgery or local hospital that are hosting a

specific clinic. Their GP or hospital consultant should complete the eligibility assessment and provide the patient with an eligibility letter **(template provided)**.

How can they book an appointment?

Their GP should be able to book them at an appointment at a clinic being held at their GP surgery. If this is not possible, once given their eligibility letter an appointment can be booked with East Suffolk and North East Essex Foundation Trust (Ipswich and Colchester sites). To book an appointment there, they will need to email azvaccination@esneft.nhs.uk. Within this email, they will need to please stipulate their child's age and what their medical condition is.

They live in the Waveney area of Suffolk – where can they find clinics for this area of the county?

If a patient lives in the Waveney area of Suffolk, they will need to visit the Norfolk and Waveney website for details of how to access a vaccination - www.norfolkandwaveneyccg.nhs.uk