

The
COVID-19
vaccine

Information for health professionals working with kidney patients

This guidance is about the COVID-19 vaccination programme for those with chronic kidney disease, dialysis and kidney transplant patients. Recent findings¹ show that kidney patients in Scotland are at higher risk from COVID-19 compared to the rest of the population due to their condition.

The risk of infection and complications from COVID-19 remains high for kidney patients. Two doses of the vaccine do not provide enough protection.

For kidney patients, getting fully vaccinated is the best way to protect against serious disease, being admitted to hospital or dying. Evidence shows that there is a clear decline in uptake of the third primary/booster dose within this group.

Please ask if your patient has been vaccinated against COVID-19 and advise that they have all their recommended doses.

If your patient has had some but not all the recommended doses please reassure them it is not too late to complete the COVID-19 vaccination course.

1 The Impact of Vaccination on Incidence and Outcomes of SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Patients with Kidney Failure in Scotland | American Society of Nephrology (asnjournal.org)

The table below shows how many doses kidney patients are eligible for depending on their condition. This table may help the conversation between patient and staff member.

COVID-19 vaccine doses for kidney patients

Vaccine	Who		When
	Dialysis and chronic kidney disease patients stage 4 and 5	Kidney transplant patients or people who take immunosuppressive medication	
1st primary dose	✓	✓	As soon as possible
2nd primary dose	✓	✓	From 8 weeks after previous dose
3rd primary dose	✗	✓	From 8 weeks after previous dose
Booster dose	✓	✓	From 3 months after previous dose
Spring booster	✗	✓	From 3 to 6 months after previous dose
Autumn booster 2022	To be confirmed	To be confirmed	From 6 months after previous dose

Do your patients know?

- For kidney patients, getting fully vaccinated is the best way to protect them against serious disease, being admitted to hospital or dying.
- If they are on dialysis or have a kidney transplant, it's important they have all the recommended doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, because they may get less protection from the vaccine than the wider population.
- Getting all the recommended doses helps increase the level of protection for them as they may not have generated a full immune response to the first two doses.
- It's not too late for them to get fully vaccinated against COVID-19. First, second, third and booster doses continue to be available. Community clinics will be safe and welcoming.
- Evidence shows there is no harm to the kidneys in relation to receiving all the recommended doses of the vaccination. Any questions or concerns can be discussed with their kidney team.

How to get the COVID-19 vaccine

Your patient may have already received NHS Scotland letters inviting them to their COVID-19 vaccine appointments. If these have been missed, they can easily be rearranged.




To make an appointment your patient can:

- book online at **www.nhsinform.scot/vaccinebooking**
- call **0800 030 8013** (open 8am – 8pm, 7 days a week)
- visit a drop-in clinic. To check what's available in their local area they can visit **www.nhsinform.scot/vaccinedropinclinics**

Reliable sources of information

If your patients would like any further information, we recommend you signpost them to reliable sources of information.

Here are some useful links to information:

-  Read the **COVID-19 vaccine information leaflet for adults** from Public Health Scotland **also available in other formats and languages**
-  For accurate and up-to-date information on the COVID-19 vaccine, visit **nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine**
-  Read the **COVID-19 guidance for people with kidney disease** from **Kidney Care UK**

Online toolkit for professionals

-  Public Health Scotland's online toolkit of resources for professionals is available at **www.publichealthscotland.scot/covidvaccinekidneypatientresources**

Information in other languages and formats

Information is available in other languages and formats at **www.nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccineleaflets**

Other formats include Easy Read, large print and audio.

To order resources in other languages and formats email **phs.otherformats@phs.scot**