**Template letter to severely immunosuppressed individuals for GP practices and consultants to adapt and issue**

**Individuals aged 12 and over with severe immunosuppression are now recommended to receive a third primary dose of the COVID-19 vaccine**

Dear [Name],

We are writing to let you know that you are now eligible for an extra dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in light of the latest advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

The advice recommends that a third dose is given for individuals aged 12 and over with immunosuppression and you are eligible within this category given your current health condition. This is because you take immunosuppression tablets, are active on the transplant waiting list or because you have dialysis treatment.

This is being advised as a precautionary measure to increase your immunity level and provide a better vaccine response, based on studies and experience with other vaccines. It is part of your primary course of vaccination and is separate from a booster vaccination, which you will likely become eligible for in six months’ time, pending further advice.

We recommend you contact your [GP / Consultant] to discuss the optimal timing to receive your vaccination, which must be at least 8 weeks after your second dose. Your [GP or consultant] will advise you how you can book an appointment to receive your third dose, which may be at the hospital where you receive treatment, your local Primary Care Network or at another site they direct you to.

For more information about the coronavirus vaccine, read the leaflet that came with this letter or visit [www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination](http://www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination).

Yours sincerely,

[Signatory]

**Template letter for consultants (to be put on consultant / GP letterhead)**

Dear [GP name / To Whom It May Concern],

I have assessed patient [name] and they meet the criteria set out in the latest JCVI advice on vaccinating individuals aged 12 and over with severe immunosuppression and the Green Book. This is because they are taking immunosuppression, because they are on the transplant waiting list or because they are receiving dialysis treatment.

Therefore, I am recommending that [name] be offered an extra third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine as part of their primary vaccination course.

They should be offered a vaccination as soon as possible / between [dates] to ensure optimal interaction with their treatment. If the individual does not receive their vaccination within these dates, you should refer them back to [myself / the practice].

JCVI has advised a preference for mRNA vaccines for the third primary dose. In kidney patients, there is good evidence that mRNA vaccines such as Pfizer and Moderna are better at protecting these patients than the AstraZeneca Vaxzevria vaccine. We, therefore, recommend that these patients receive an mRNA vaccine and are only offered the AstraZeneca vaccine where mRNA vaccines are unavailable or contraindicated.

Please accept this letter as proof of [his/her/their] eligibility status to receive a third dose due to [his/her/their] immunosuppressed status.

Yours sincerely,

[Signatory]