

For attention of GP practices: Fifth vaccine dose for blood cancer patients

The covid vaccine schedule for blood cancer patients has been:

- 1st primary dose – from around Jan 2021
- 2nd primary dose – from around April 2021
- 3rd primary dose – from around September 2021
- 4th dose (1st booster) – from around January 2022
- 5th dose (2nd booster/Spring booster) – from around April 2022

Anyone aged 12 and above who has blood cancer, or is immunosuppressed, should now get their Spring booster. This should be their fifth dose.

If someone has had fewer than five doses, and it's been three months since their previous dose, they should have another.

Due to communication problems between the NHS and GPs, many people with blood cancer have not had their correct number of doses yet. This has left people unprotected from covid, in a group that are most at risk of death.

Government info confirming this is here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-spring-booster-resources/a-guide-to-the-spring-booster-for-those-aged-75-years-and-older-residents-in-care-homes>

Blood cancers include:

- Leukaemia
- Lymphoma
- Myeloma
- MDS (myelodysplastic syndrome)
- MPN (myeloproliferative neoplasms)
- Essential thrombocythaemia (ET)
- Polycythaemia vera (PV)
- Myelofibrosis

Those with slow-growing or chronic blood cancers should also get the fifth dose, even if they are not on active treatment. So should people in remission, if they still have immunosuppression.

For further guidance or clarification, you can contact Blood Cancer UK on [0808 2080 888](tel:08082080888) or support@bloodcancer.org.uk Our website has up-to-date information about blood cancer and coronavirus at bloodcancer.org.uk