



## **Third COVID-19 vaccine dose now recommended for people with kidney disease undergoing dialysis, and transplant recipients**

The Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology (ANZSN) continues to strongly urge people with chronic kidney disease and kidney transplant recipients to receive their first and second COVID-19 vaccinations as soon as possible.

For those who have received both doses of COVID-19 vaccine, **the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) now recommends a 3rd primary dose of COVID-19 vaccine in individuals who are severely immunocompromised.** The Commonwealth Department of Health and Therapeutic Goods Administration have endorsed these recommendations and confirmed there is sufficient supply of vaccine available.

‘Australians who are severely immunocompromised may have a decreased immune response to a COVID-19 vaccination and be more at risk from severe COVID-19. An additional booster dose for this specific cohort will ensure they continue to be protected,’ said Greg Hunt, Minister for Health and Aged Care

The recommended interval for the third dose is two to six months after their second dose of vaccine. ATAGI’s advice is that an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) is the preferred option for a third dose. These recommendations include a 3rd primary dose of COVID-19 vaccine for people with the following conditions:

- Kidney transplant with immunosuppressive therapy
- Long term haemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis

Further information on the rationale for the recommendations is available [here](#):

‘ANZSN strongly endorses ATAGI’s recommendations that a third primary dose of COVID-19 vaccine should be given to patients with kidney disease who are receiving dialysis (peritoneal dialysis or haemodialysis), have a kidney transplant, or are receiving immunosuppressive therapy. ANZSN encourages its members to support kidney patients to receive this third dose,’ said Professor David Johnson, President ANZSN.

The ANZSN emphasises that people with kidney disease including those on dialysis or have received a transplant remain at high risk of severe COVID-19 disease, and vaccination including a third primary dose of COVID-19 vaccine is the best possible protection, particularly when combined with other COVID-safe practices.