

Administration of COVID-19 Vaccine in Allergic or Immunosuppressed Patients

The following patient populations were excluded from COVID-19 clinical trials; therefore, safety and efficacy data are not available. This lack of data should be discussed with the patient during the shared decision-making process.

Recommendations	Resources
Allergies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individuals with a known or suspected allergy to the COVID-19 vaccine or any of its components, e.g., polyethylene glycol (PEG), require an assessment by an allergist before receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. Those with unrelated allergies do not require an assessment by an allergist. 	<p>Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology: https://www.csaci.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2023-UPDATE-COVID-19-Vaccine-Testing-Administration-Guidance-1.pdf Document date: 15 January 2023</p>
Breastfeeding	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breastfeeding patients should be encouraged to receive all COVID-19 vaccination doses, including booster doses, unless otherwise contraindicated. The theoretical risk of harm to the breastfed child is considered low. The breastfed child may receive passive immunity from antibodies in the breast milk. 	<p>Public Health Agency of Canada: https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-4-active-vaccines/page-26-covid-19-vaccine.html#a6.1 Document date: 7 March 2023</p> <p>Public Health Agency of Canada: https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/guidance-covid-19-vaccines-individuals-pregnant-breastfeeding.pdf Document date: 9 September 2022</p> <p>Academy of Breastfeeding Medicine: https://www.bfmed.org/abm-statement-considerations-for-covid-19-vaccination-in-lactation Document date: 14 December 2020</p> <p>Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada: https://www.sogc.org/common/Uploaded%20files/Covid%20Information/COVID_Vaccine_Pregnancy221118_Web_2023_1_25_ENG%20(1)_V1.pdf Document date: 14 March 2022</p>
Cancer	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patients with cancer should be encouraged to receive all COVID-19 vaccination doses, including booster doses, unless otherwise contraindicated. If patient is currently receiving chemotherapy, consult with oncology team for appropriate timing of administration. Since response to the vaccine may be attenuated, stress the importance of continued adherence to vaccination timing and public health measures for prevention of COVID-19. Follow general recommendations for immunosuppressed patients. <i>See immunosuppressed (general).</i> 	<p>Public Health Agency of Canada: https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-4-active-vaccines/page-26-covid-19-vaccine.html#a6.4 Document date: 7 March 2023</p> <p>American Society of Clinical Oncology: https://old-prod.asco.org/covid-resources/vaccines-patients-cancer Document undated</p> <p>Cancer Care Ontario: https://www.cancercareontario.ca/en/covid19-cancer/vaccines#:~:text=The%20COVID%2D19%20vaccines%20are%20safe%20for%20people%20with%20cancer,very%20sick%20from%20COVID%2D19 Document date: 13 September 2022</p> <p>National Advisory Committee on Immunization: https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/publications/vaccines-immunization/national-advisory-committee-immunization-guidance-additional-covid-19-booster-dose-spring-2023-individuals-high-risk-severe-illness-due-covid-19/statement.pdf Document date: 3 March 2023</p>



Recommendations	Resources
Dermatological conditions	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patients receiving systemic therapy for dermatologic conditions should be encouraged to receive all COVID-19 vaccination doses, including booster doses, unless otherwise contraindicated. Since response to the vaccine may be attenuated, stress the importance of continued adherence to public health measures for prevention of COVID-19. Follow general recommendations for immunosuppressed patients. See <i>immunosuppressed (general)</i>. 	<p>Canadian Dermatology Association: https://dermatology.ca/public-patients/covid-19-patient-updates/ Document date: 19 March 2021</p>
Immunosuppressed (general)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patients who are immunosuppressed should be encouraged to receive all COVID-19 vaccination doses, including booster doses, unless otherwise contraindicated. Since response to the vaccine may be attenuated, stress the importance of continued adherence to vaccination timing and public health measures for prevention of COVID-19. See also recommendations from medical associations representing the specific condition in question. 	<p>Public Health Agency of Canada: https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-4-active-vaccines/page-26-covid-19-vaccine.html#a6.4 Document date: 7 March 2023</p> <p>National Advisory Committee on Immunization: https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/publications/vaccines-immunization/national-advisory-committee-immunization-guidance-additional-covid-19-booster-dose-spring-2023-individuals-high-risk-severe-illness-due-covid-19/statement.pdf Document date: 3 March 2023</p>
Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patients with HIV who are immunocompetent should be encouraged to receive all COVID-19 vaccination doses, including booster doses, unless otherwise contraindicated. Since response to the vaccine may be attenuated, stress the importance of continued adherence to public health measures for prevention of COVID-19. 	<p>Public Health Agency of Canada: https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-4-active-vaccines/page-26-covid-19-vaccine.html#a6.4 Document date: 7 March 2023</p> <p>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/basics/covid-19.html Document date: 12 July 2022</p> <p>National Advisory Committee on Immunization: https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/publications/vaccines-immunization/national-advisory-committee-immunization-guidance-additional-covid-19-booster-dose-spring-2023-individuals-high-risk-severe-illness-due-covid-19/statement.pdf Document date: 3 March 2023</p>
Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patients with IBD should be encouraged to receive all COVID-19 vaccination doses, including booster doses, unless otherwise contraindicated. Since response to the vaccine may be attenuated, stress the importance of continued adherence to public health measures for prevention of COVID-19. 	<p>Public Health Agency of Canada: https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-4-active-vaccines/page-26-covid-19-vaccine.html#a6.4 Document date: 7 March 2023</p> <p>Canadian Association of Gastroenterology: https://academic.oup.com/jcag/article/4/1/49/6121498?login=false Document date: 27 January 2021</p> <p>Crohn's and Colitis Canada: https://crohnsandcolitis.ca/About-Crohn-s-Colitis/COVID-19-and-IBD/Vaccines Document date: 26 January 2022</p> <p>National Advisory Committee on Immunization: https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/publications/vaccines-immunization/national-advisory-committee-immunization-guidance-additional-covid-19-booster-dose-spring-2023-individuals-high-risk-severe-illness-due-covid-19/statement.pdf Document date: 3 March 2023</p>

Recommendations	Resources
Multiple sclerosis (MS)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients with MS should be encouraged to receive all COVID-19 vaccination doses, including booster doses, unless otherwise contraindicated. • For patients on immunosuppressive therapy, consultation with their health-care provider is recommended for a risk-benefit analysis to aid in shared decision-making. • Consult with their MS care team regarding timing of vaccination and administration of medication. Some MS medications reduce patients' immune response and vaccine efficacy (e.g., fingolimod and other S1P modulators, alemtuzumab, cladribine, ocrelizumab, ofatumumab, high-dose corticosteroids). To maximize vaccine efficacy, a delay in vaccine or medication administration may be required, depending on the patient's scenario. • Since response to the vaccine may be attenuated, stress the importance of continued adherence to public health measures for prevention of COVID-19. • Follow general recommendations for immunosuppressed patients. See <i>immunosuppressed (general)</i>. 	<p>Canadian Network of MS Clinics and the MS Society of Canada's Medical Advisory Committee: https://cnmsc.ca/Covid19VaccineGuidance Document date: 14 October 2021</p> <p>MS International Federation: https://www.msif.org/news/2020/02/10/the-coronavirus-and-ms-what-you-need-to-know/ Document date: 24 May 2022</p>
Pregnancy	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients who are pregnant should be encouraged to receive all COVID-19 vaccination doses, including booster doses, unless otherwise contraindicated. 	<p>Public Health Agency of Canada: https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-4-active-vaccines/page-26-covid-19-vaccine.html#a6.1 Document date: 7 March 2023</p> <p>Public Health Agency of Canada: https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/guidance-covid-19-vaccines-individuals-pregnant-breastfeeding.pdf Document date: 9 September 2022</p> <p>American College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (ACOG): https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/practice-advisory/articles/2020/12/covid-19-vaccination-considerations-for-obstetric-gynecologic-care Document date: 6 January 2023</p> <p>Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada: https://www.sogc.org/common/Uploaded%20files/Covid%20Information/COVID_Vaccine_Pregnancy221118_Web_2023_1_25_ENG%20(1)_V1.pdf Document date: 14 March 2022</p>
Rheumatic diseases	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients with rheumatic disease should be encouraged to receive all COVID-19 vaccination doses, including booster doses, unless otherwise contraindicated. • Since response to the vaccine may be attenuated, stress the importance of continued adherence to public health measures for prevention of COVID-19. • Follow general recommendations for immunosuppressed patients. See <i>immunosuppressed (general)</i>. 	<p>Public Health Agency of Canada: https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/healthy-living/canadian-immunization-guide-part-4-active-vaccines/page-26-covid-19-vaccine.html#a6.4 Document date: 7 March 2023</p> <p>Canadian Rheumatology Association: https://rheum.ca/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/FINAL-Updated-PS-on-COVID-19-Vacc-March-25_2022_for-publication.pdf Document date: 25 March 2022</p> <p>National Advisory Committee on Immunization: https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/publications/vaccines-immunization/national-advisory-committee-immunization-guidance-additional-covid-19-booster-dose-spring-2023-individuals-high-risk-severe-illness-due-covid-19/statement.pdf Document date: 3 March 2023</p>

