



February 25, 2021

## COVID-19 Recommendations for Special Populations 80+

### Individuals who have an autoimmune condition or are immunocompromised:

- A. Patients who have an autoimmune disease or are immunocompromised (due to disease or treatment) and are receiving any of the following treatments must receive counselling by their treating healthcare provider prior to receiving their vaccination.
- Stem cell therapy
  - CAR-T therapy
  - Chemotherapy
  - Immune checkpoint inhibitors
  - Monoclonal antibodies (e.g. rituximab)
  - Other targeted agents (e.g. CD4/6 inhibitors, PARP inhibitors, etc)

The counselling needs to include:

- A review of the risks and benefits of the vaccine.
- A review of the potential risks/consequences of a COVID infection.
- A review of the risk of acquiring a COVID infection.
- An acknowledgement of the insufficiency of evidence for the use of current COVID-19 vaccines in this population.
- With discussion on the timing of vaccination in relation to therapy for their underlying health condition and/ or treatment modification, and in a view of possible decreased vaccine effectiveness with the use of immunosuppressive therapy.

**Once this counselling is completed these individuals can receive their vaccine in a routine community clinic. They will be required to provide verbal attestation that this counselling has taken place as part of informed consent.**

- B. All other individuals who have autoimmune conditions or are immunocompromised due to disease or treatment who are not receiving any of the above treatments may still choose to consult their healthcare provider prior to receiving the vaccine. However, this is not a requirement. **These individuals can get vaccinated at a routine clinic.**

### Individuals with Allergies

- A. Patients who have had a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) or an immediate allergic reaction (such as hives, swelling, or respiratory distress that occurred within 4 hours) to a previous dose of a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine or to any of its components **CANNOT receive the mRNA COVID-19 vaccine in a general vaccine clinic.**
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Some allergies of concern include:

- Polyethylene glycol
- polysorbate (not a component, risk of possible cross-reactivity)  
(see product monographs for complete list of vaccine components)

**An urgent referral to an allergist/ immunologist is required for these individuals to assess the possibility of (re)administration of the vaccine. If it is determined that the individual can receive their vaccine, they must book an appointment at a specialized clinic. The following documentation will be required:**

- A vaccination care plan
- Allergy form: [www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/vaccine/COVID-19\\_Vaccination\\_Allergy\\_Form.pdf](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/vaccine/COVID-19_Vaccination_Allergy_Form.pdf)

B. Patients who have had a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) or an immediate allergic reaction (such as hives, swelling, or respiratory distress that occurred within 4 hours) to any other vaccine, medication, therapy, food, drug, venom, latex or other allergens not related to the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines **can receive the vaccine in a routine clinic**. They do not require counselling by a health care provider. They will be asked to stay for an extended monitoring period of 30 minutes.

Patients with allergy issues like allergic rhinitis, asthma and eczema **can receive the vaccine in a routine clinic**. They do not require counselling by a health care provider. They may be asked to stay for an extended monitoring period of up to 30 minutes