



## FAQ

# Vaccine Facts For Immunocompromised People

## Who is considered immunocompromised?

Immunocompromised (IC) people have a **weakened immune system**, often caused by a disease or medical treatment. People who are IC are at an **increased risk for severe health outcomes** from infections that vaccines protect against.

## Are vaccines safe for immunocompromised people?

- Vaccine safety depends on a person's health condition.<sup>1</sup>
- Non-live vaccines are safe for most IC people.<sup>1</sup>
- Live vaccines may not be safe for some IC people as they contain a weakened strain of the virus, which can lead to actual infection.<sup>1</sup>

## How well do vaccines protect immunocompromised people?

- The level of protection that a vaccine provides depends on the type of vaccine and the ability of the person's immune system to respond to the vaccine (e.g., ability to mount an immune response).<sup>1</sup>
- Some people do not mount a strong response to certain vaccines (e.g. mRNA vaccines), and require more doses or other therapeutics (e.g. antivirals, monoclonal antibodies) to be fully protected.<sup>2</sup>

## Which vaccines should immunocompromised people get?

- Your healthcare provider can recommend vaccines based on your IC status, which may differ from what is recommended to the general population.
- The vaccines needed depend on many factors, including the type and severity of immune system compromise, age, your medical history, and health risks.<sup>1</sup>
- **Vaccines your healthcare provider may recommend include:**
  - ✓ COVID-19
  - ✓ Influenza (Flu)
  - ✓ Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)

## What are the COVID-19 vaccine recommendations for IC people?

### Canada's official guidelines recommend<sup>3</sup>:

- People who are IC receive the most recent COVID-19 vaccines (mRNA or protein subunit) in the fall of 2024. This vaccine will contain the most recent circulating strains of COVID-19.<sup>3</sup>
- You can receive a COVID-19 vaccine if it has been **more than 6 months** since your last COVID-19 vaccine or COVID-19 infection.<sup>3</sup>

## Links to more information:

1. Public Health Agency of Canada. [Immunization of immunocompromised persons: Canadian Immunization Guide](#) (2024).
2. Boretti A. [mRNA vaccine boosters and impaired immune system response in immune compromised individuals: a narrative review.](#) Clin Exp Med. 2024 Jan 27;24(1):23. DOI: [10.1007/s10238-023-01264-1](#).
3. Public Health Agency of Canada. [COVID-19 vaccines: Canadian Immunization Guide](#) (2024).