

July 21, 2025

**The Honourable Adriana LaGrange**

Minister of Primary and Preventative Health Services  
Government of Alberta

**Re: Government of Alberta COVID-19 Immunization Program Changes**

Dear Minister LaGrange,

On behalf of the Canadian Immunocompromised Advocacy Network (CIAN), I am writing to share our perspective and recommendations regarding the recent changes to Alberta's COVID-19 immunization program, announced on June 13, 2025.

Our organization would like to emphasize three areas that can support immunocompromised Albertans:

1. **Identify immunocompromised status through patient-provider collaboration:** Allow patients to work with healthcare providers to identify their status as immunocompromised, supported by clear public messaging and provider guidance.
2. **Provide publicly funded access for households and caregivers of immunocompromised individuals:** Ensure publicly funded immunization is available to all immunocompromised individuals and their household members and/or caregivers, regardless of rollout phase.
3. **Maintain pharmacy access for COVID-19 immunizations:** Ensure pharmacy-based immunization distribution is available to increase accessibility—especially in rural or underserved communities, and for those with mobility or transportation challenges.

In the enclosed letter, we've highlighted meaningful ways the Government of Alberta can lead the way in advancing the health and well-being of immunocompromised Albertans.

**Recommendation One: Support immunocompromised individuals in identifying their status as immunocompromised**

As a network specifically focused on immune weakening and suppressing conditions, we continue to learn about different health conditions that lead people to experience inadequate immune responses, leading to severe illness, hospitalization, and even death, putting additional pressure on the health care system.

To help ensure timely access to protection for all Albertans who experience immunocompromising conditions, CIAN recommends allowing patients to work with their healthcare provider to help identify their immune status. This approach reduces barriers to care and ensures patients can access the protection they need without unnecessary delays or confusion related to eligibility criteria.



### **Recommendation Two: Provide publicly funded access for households and caregivers of immunocompromised individuals**

The updated provincial policy presents an opportunity to strengthen protections for immunocompromised individuals by extending publicly funded access to COVID-19 immunization for their household members and caregivers. Some individuals who are immunocompromised are not able to mount an adequate response to immunizations. In lieu of other vaccine options, such as monoclonal antibodies, these individuals rely on those around them for protection. Therefore, eliminating barriers to access and affordability will help strengthen the protective buffer that helps shield immunocompromised individuals from severe illness.

Ensuring publicly funded access to COVID-19 immunization for immunocompromised Albertans and their support networks would demonstrate a commitment to protecting the most vulnerable members of our community.

### **Recommendation Three: Maintain pharmacy access for COVID-19 immunizations**

Shifting immunization delivery solely to public health clinics will create challenges for immunocompromised Albertans—particularly those facing mobility challenges, transportation barriers, or living in rural communities. By maintaining access through pharmacies, the province can remove barriers and support individuals in accessing the protection they need.

Adopting these changes presents an important opportunity for the Government of Alberta to become a national leader in protecting immunocompromised individuals—by ensuring equitable access to vaccination and championing policies that prioritize the health of those most at risk of infection, severe outcomes, you also minimize strain on our precious health care resources.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss how we can work together to strengthen Alberta's immunization strategy and ensure it reflects our shared commitment to equity, accessibility, and the protection of immunocompromised Albertans.

Sincerely,



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