

COVID-19 Vaccines: British Columbia's 'Clinically Extremely Vulnerable' population

Patients considered clinically extremely vulnerable if they were to get COVID-19 are those who:

Transplant:

- Have had a solid organ transplant (kidney, liver, lung, heart, pancreas)

Cancer:

- Are having systemic therapy for cancer now or have had it in the past 12 months. This includes chemotherapy, molecular therapy, immunotherapy, monoclonal antibodies, hormonal therapy for cancer
- Are having radiation therapy for cancer now or in the past 6 months
- Are having or had targeted cancer treatments that can affect the immune system such as CAR-T cell treatments in the past 6 months
- Have blood or bone marrow cancer (such as leukemia, lymphoma, myeloma, myelodysplastic disorders)
- Have had a bone marrow or stem cell transplant in the past 6 months, or are still taking immunosuppressant medicine related to the transplant

Severe respiratory conditions:

- Have cystic fibrosis (and are over 16 years of age)
- Have been hospitalized because of COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) in the last three years (Since April 2018)
- Have been hospitalized because of asthma in the last three years (since April 2018)

Rare blood diseases

- Have homozygous sickle cell disease
- Have highest risk thalassemia, meaning they have thalassemia *and two* of the following: are transfusion dependent, are receiving iron chelation therapy, their pre-transfusion hemoglobin level is less than 70 in the last 2-3 years, have iron overload, have had their spleen taken out as treatment for thalassemia or have other significant health conditions, are over 50.
- They are an adult with Atypical Hemolytic Uremia Syndrome (aHUS) or Paroxysmal Nocturnal Hemoglobinuria

Other rare diseases

- Have a condition that means they need a metabolic (biochemical diseases) specialist and are known to have a metabolically unstable inborn error of metabolism
- Have a condition known as a severe primary immunodeficiency – they have combined immune deficiencies affecting T-cells; familial hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis or have type 1 interferon defects.

Splenectomy:

- Have had their spleen removed or have been told they have a spleen that doesn't function (functional asplenia)

Diabetes on insulin

- Are currently taking insulin for diabetes (by injection or pump)

Significant Developmental disabilities that increase risk

- Have a significant developmental disability, such Down's Syndrome and other conditions, that is significant enough that they require support for activities of daily living and therefore use or receive support from one of these programs
 - Community Supports for Independent Living (CSIL)
 - Community Living British Columbia (CLBC)
 - For youth 16-19 years, the program called "Nursing Support Services"

Kidney/Renal Disease

- Are on dialysis (hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis)
- Have stage 5 chronic kidney disease (your eGFR is less than 15 ml/min)
- Have glomerulonephritis and are receiving steroid treatment

Pregnant with heart disease

- Are pregnant AND have a serious heart condition, congenital or acquired, that requires them to see a cardiac specialist during your pregnancy.

Neuromuscular/neurologic or muscular conditions which require respiratory support

- Have significant muscle weakness around their lungs and need to use a ventilator or Bi-level positive airway pressure (Bi-PAP) continuously.

Those whose immune system is affected by immunosuppression therapies they take

- Are taking high dose steroids or other medicines known to suppress their immune system. The timing of when they last took the medication is important:
 - Biologics taken since December 15, 2020:
ABATACEPT, ADALIMUMAB, ANAKINRA, CERTOLIZUMAB, ETANERCEPT, GOLIMUMAB, INFLIXIMAB, IXEKIZUMAB, OCRELIZUMAB, SARILUMAB, SECUKINUMAB, TOCILIZUMAB, or USTEKINUMAB
 - Oral drugs since December 15, 2020:
AZATHIOPRINE, BARICITINIB, CYCLOPHOSPHAMIDE, CYCLOSPORINE, LEFLUNOMIDE, MYCOPHENOLATE, SIROLIMUS, TACROLIMUS, TOFACITINIB, UPADACITINIB, METHOTREXATE, DEXAMETHASONE, HYDROCORTISONE, PREDNISONE, or METHYLPREDNISOLONE.
 - Steroids orally or by injection since December 15, 2020:
DEXAMETHASONE, HYDROCORTISONE, METHYLPREDNISOLONE, or PREDNISONE
 - Youth 16-18 years taking since December 15, 2020:
CANAKINUMAB OR VEDOLIZUMAB.
 - Biologics taken since February 15, 2020:
RITUXIMAB