

COVID-19 Vaccine FAQs: Immunocompromised

1. What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 is an illness caused by a virus called SARS-CoV-2. COVID-19 was first identified in 2019.

2. Who can get very sick from COVID-19?

Some people are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19, including:

- Adults aged 65 years and older
- Pregnant people
- People with health problems like heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes
- People with weakened immune systems

3. How can I help protect myself from COVID-19?

Getting a COVID-19 vaccine is one of the best ways to help protect yourself. You can also:

- Wash your hands often
- Stay away from sick people
- Wear a mask in crowded places
- Improve indoor air quality when possible

4. Should people with weakened immune systems get a COVID-19 vaccine?

Yes. In adults and children with compromised immunity, age-appropriate 2026-2027 COVID-19 vaccinations is recommended. A second dose of 2026-2027 COVID-19 vaccination may extend protection. Household members and close contacts of immunocompromised patients should also be up to date with COVID-19 vaccination. Talk with your doctor about what is right for you.

5. Do COVID-19 vaccines work?

Yes. COVID-19 vaccines help protect people from getting very sick from COVID-19.

COVID-19 vaccines can also help:

- Lower the chance of going to the hospital
- Make illness less severe if you do get sick
- Reduce the chance of needing urgent or emergency care



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6. Does the COVID-19 vaccine have side effects?

Some people may feel tired after getting the vaccine. Others may have:

- Headache
- Muscle aches
- A sore arm
- Fever
- Swollen glands under the arm

These side effects are normal and usually go away in a few days.

In rare cases, inflammation around or in the heart has been reported after COVID-19 vaccination, most often in adolescent boys and young men. These conditions are more likely to happen after a COVID-19 infection than after vaccination.

7. If I already had COVID-19 this year, should I still get a vaccine?

Yes. You may wait about 3 months after getting COVID-19 before getting a vaccine. Talk with your doctor about the best timing to get the vaccine. Getting vaccinated after having COVID-19 can help protect you from getting sick again.

8. Can I get a COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines at the same time?

Yes. Most vaccines can be given at the same visit. Talk with your doctor to see what is right for you.

9. Is there treatment available if I get COVID-19?

Yes. Immunocompromised people are at higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19. Talk with your doctor as soon as possible if you think you have COVID-19. Treatment works best when started early.

