

COVID 19 Vaccine: Information for Patients with Gastrointestinal Disease on Immunosuppressive Therapy

The COVID-19 vaccines approved for use in Australia are all **Non-Live**. They will help protect you against infection and cannot give you COVID-19.

There are currently two approved vaccines in Australia, taken as 2 doses (about 21 days apart):

Pfizer/BioNTech

mRNA vaccine

Prevented COVID-19 in 95% of patients.

University of

Oxford/AstraZeneca

viral vector vaccine Prevented
COVID-19 in 70% of patients.

There are plans for a further vaccines to be available in 2021:

Novavax protein subunit vaccine prevented COVID-19 in 89% of patients.

All vaccines have been shown to prevent severe infection and hospitalisation in 100% of patients after completing the recommended doses

In the future, there may be other vaccines available in Australia. These vaccines must pass safety, quality and effectiveness tests. They are all **NON**-live vaccines.

The approved COVID-19 vaccines are considered safe and effective and recommended for patients experiencing and taking medication for:

- ✓ Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)
- ✓ Liver disease

The decision to give the COVID-19 vaccine in some population groups will need specialist advice. Discuss with your specialist if you:

- Are under 16 years of age;
- Have a history of allergic reactions to medicines that caused you to have trouble breathing
- Are pregnant or planning pregnancy.

Some medications may decrease how well the COVID-19 vaccine works. Discuss with your specialist regarding timing of vaccination if you are taking the following medicines:

- More than 10mg of prednisolone daily
- Rituximab

What additional steps can I take to protect myself against COVID?

- ✓ Ensure up to date with Flu Vaccination and Pneumococcal vaccination
- ✓ Remain on your medications to keep your condition under control
- ✓ Maintain good hand hygiene
- ✓ Practice social distancing and abide by the local government COVID-19 restrictions in your area