

## Information about COVID-19 Vaccination Information for Patients with Gastrointestinal or Liver Diseases on Immunosuppressive Therapy

Pfizer COMIRNATY mRNA  
vaccination prevented symptomatic  
COVID-19 in 95%  
2 doses given 3-6 weeks apart  
*Age 12 and over*

Moderna SPIKEVAX mRNA  
vaccination prevented  
symptomatic COVID-19 in 96%  
2 doses given 4 weeks apart  
*Age 12 and over*

AstraZeneca VAXZEVRIA viral vector  
vaccination prevented symptomatic  
COVID-19 in 82%  
2 doses given 6-12 weeks apart  
*Age 18 and over*

**All** vaccinations have been shown to prevent severe infection and hospitalisation after completing the recommended doses  
*Protection against COVID-19 may not be until 14 days after the second dose*

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

- Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)
  - Liver disease
  - Liver transplantation
- If you are pregnant or pregnancy planning, an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer/Moderna) is recommended
  - If you are aged between 12-18, mRNA vaccines (Pfizer/Moderna) are approved and recommended
  - COVID-19 vaccines are currently not approved in Australia for people < 12 years of age
  - Some medications may decrease how well the COVID-19 vaccine works. Discuss with your medical specialist the timing of your vaccination if you are taking more than 20mg of prednisolone daily
  - COVID-19 vaccination can be given at any time in relation to biologic medicines

You may be eligible for a third vaccine dose 2-6 months after the second dose in some circumstances. This vaccine should ideally be an mRNA vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna). Eligibility criteria includes:

- High dose or combination immunosuppressant medications
- High dose prednisolone

If you are not eligible for a third COVID-19 vaccine you will be eligible for a booster vaccination. A booster vaccine occurs more than 6 months after your second dose of primary vaccination. Comirnaty (Pfizer) is the preferred booster vaccine. Eligibility criteria include:

- 18 years or older
  - 6 months or more after completion of your primary two COVID-19 vaccination doses
- COVID-19 vaccination is not currently available to children < 12 years of old. However, children are far less likely than adults to develop severe COVID-19 disease.
  - Children on immunosuppression do not appear at increased risk of severe COVID-19 compared to age-matched controls
  - We recommend that siblings and the vast majority of pediatric IBD patients return to school and community activities

What additional steps can I take to protect myself against COVID-19?

- Ensure up to date with Flu vaccination and Pneumococcal vaccination.
- Remain on your medications to keep your condition under control.
- Maintain good hand hygiene.
- Help all family members over 12 years of age to be vaccinated.
- Practice social distancing and abide by local state government COVID-19 restrictions in your area