

COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION

We encourage our patients to receive the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as they are able. The vaccines are safe and work to prevent the spread of [COVID-19](#).

Following the guidance from [The American College of Rheumatology](#), the Rheumatologists at the Columbus Arthritis Center support all adult rheumatology patients receiving the vaccine unless there are certain conditions which put them at risk.

Medications and Vaccinations:

Patients can receive the COVID-19 vaccine without adjustment to their medications, with the following exceptions:

1. If possible **Methotrexate** should be withheld the day of the vaccines, 1-2 days prior to the vaccines and for 7 days after the vaccines (this applies to both vaccine doses)
2. If possible hold **Xeljanz, Olumiant, and Rinvoq** the day of the vaccines and for 7 days after each vaccine (this applies to both vaccine doses)
3. If possible avoid **IV Orencia** for 4 weeks prior the 1st vaccine dose only, and resume Orencia 1 week after the vaccine (this applies to only the 1st vaccine dose)
4. If possible avoid **SQ (self-injection) Orencia** for 7 days prior to the 1st vaccine dose and for 7 days after the 1st vaccine dose (this applies to only the 1st vaccine dose)
5. If possible avoid **Rituxan** infusion until 4 weeks prior to the scheduled dose and resume Rituxan 2-4 weeks after the 2nd vaccine dose
 - a. e.g. if the Rituxan is scheduled every 6 months, the 1st vaccine can be given 5 months after Rituxan, the 2nd vaccine would be given 3-4 weeks later, and Rituxan can be resumed 2-4 weeks after the 2nd dose

Remember these are general guidelines/recommendations and may be individualized based on the needs of the patient and are subject to change as new information becomes available.

Please reach out to your Rheumatologist for any questions regarding these recommendations.

For information regarding Ohio's Vaccination Program, please visit: [COVID-19 Vaccination Program](#).