

COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION

Updated 8-19-2021

The American College of Rheumatology task force recommends:

All adult rheumatology patients should receive COVID-19 vaccination unless there is a known contraindication (e.g. known allergies to vaccine components)

Booster (3rd shot) recommendations

- For moderate to severe immune deficiency patients
- This includes most rheumatology patients
- Only those that received the 2 shot Pfizer or Moderna vaccines are eligible presently
- Must be at least 28 days from second vaccine shot
- Avoid taking certain medications/treatments for 1-2 weeks after booster shot if possible (see below)
- A doctors note is NOT needed

Avoid taking the following medications/treatments for 1-2 weeks after the booster (if you can)

- Methotrexate
- Cellcept (mycophenolate). cyclosporine, tacrolimus
- All biologics (eg. Remicade, Simponi, Orenzia, Cimzia, Enbrel, Humira, Actemra, Cosentyx, Taltz, Stelara, Benlysta, Xeljanz, Rinvoq, Olumiant)
- Rituxan (talk to your provider about the timing of the booster)
- Plaquenil (hydroxychloroquine) does NOT need to be stopped
- Try to avoid Tylenol **and NSAIDS 24 hours before booster**

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 provider for any questions regarding these recommendations.

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Initial (primary) vaccination timing:

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

1. If possible avoid taking **Tylenol (acetaminophen)** and **NSAIDS (e.g. Aleve, Advil, ibuprofen, naproxen, celecoxib, meloxicam etc)** for **24 hours prior** to vaccination, but no restrictions after the vaccine is given to treat symptoms
2. If possible **methotrexate** should be withheld the day of the vaccines, 1-2 days prior to the vaccines and for 7 days after the **Pfizer and Moderna** vaccines (this applies to both vaccine doses) and for 2 weeks after the single dose **Johnson & Johnson** vaccine
3. 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)
4. 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)
5. 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)
6. 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
7. If possible avoid **Cellcept (mycophenolate), cyclosporine, tacrolimus** for 7 days after each vaccine dose

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