

Booking Your COVID-19 Vaccine: Instructions for Oncology Patients

Who should receive a COVID-19 vaccine?

- Cancer Care Ontario is recommending that everyone receive a COVID-19 vaccination, when available, unless contraindicated.
- People who have or have recently had cancer may have a higher risk of getting very sick from COVID-19. The vaccine is an important part of protecting people with cancer or people who have recently been treated for cancer.
- If you have had an anaphylactic reaction to your cancer treatment, if you are receiving induction chemotherapy for acute leukemia, if you are a current or former transplant patient or if you have recently received Rituximab or CAR-T cell therapy –then please speak with your hematologist or oncologist prior to booking your appointment.

How safe is the COVID-19 vaccine for people with cancer?

- Health Canada has one of the most careful review processes in the world. Prior to vaccine approval, they make sure that all vaccines meet very strict safety and efficacy standards. COVID-19 vaccines are safe for people with cancer. It is important that people with cancer get vaccinated because they may be at a higher risk of more severe outcomes of COVID-19.
- For more information see "[What you need to know about COVID-19 vaccines: Information for people with cancer](#)"

How soon can I book my appointment?

- You can book your appointment at your earliest convenience.

How do I book my appointment?

- You can book your appointment online on the Halton Region website. [Halton Region - Vaccine Appointment Booking Tool](#)

NOTE: you will need your health card in order to complete the booking under the Organization category select: Individuals with Chronic Health Conditions

Where do I go to receive my vaccine?

- You will select the location of your vaccine appointment when you book it online.

When should I receive my vaccine?

- If you are currently receiving treatment: you should receive the vaccine 2-3 days before your treatment
- If you are starting a new treatment: it is recommended you receive the vaccine 2 weeks before you start treatment
- **Cancer patients on certain treatments may receive a medical exception to the extended dose interval – please talk to your oncologist/ hematologist to see if you qualify.**

Do I have to wear a mask and social distance after getting the vaccine?

- There is still a chance that you can get infected with COVID-19 after getting the vaccine, even if you do not feel sick. You may also still be able to spread COVID-19 to others. As such, it is important to keep:
 - Wearing a mask
 - Washing your hands
 - Keeping 6 feet apart from people you do not live with
- To keep everyone safe, continue to follow public health advice after getting the vaccine.

Where can I get more information about the COVID-19 vaccine?

- Cancer Care Ontario: <https://www.cancercareontario.ca/en/cancer-treatments/covid19-cancer/vaccines>
- Health Canada: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/covid19-industry/drugs-vaccines-treatments.html>
- Ontario Ministry of Health: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/covid-19-vaccines-ontario>

Who do I contact if I have questions?

- The Oncology Clinic: 905-336-4103