

Women’s College GI Clinic | COVID-19 Vaccination Information

As a patient of the Women’s College Hospital GI Clinic, this document has been prepared to help you with questions about the COVID-19 vaccine as it generally relates to individuals with your medical condition. If you feel your concerns were not addressed, please speak with your physician(s).

Currently there are four COVID-19 vaccines approved for use in Canada, three of which are currently available: Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and AstraZeneca. As the COVID-19 vaccination situation is rapidly changing, content contained in this document is only current as of April 15, 2021. Please always refer to public health guidelines within your area, as well as societal guidelines for your specific condition, for example <https://crohnsandcolitis.ca/About-Crohn-s-Colitis/COVID-19-and-IBD/Vaccines>.

Am I considered immune-compromised because of my GI condition and therefore eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine?

Vaccine eligibility in Ontario varies based on postal code, age, occupation and health status. Currently individuals considered immune-compromised are [eligible](#) to receive a COVID-19 vaccine in Ontario. Based on the government criteria, the chart below outlines which conditions are considered high-risk by the government and therefore currently eligible for a vaccine.

Yes	No
Crohn’s Ulcerative colitis	Celiac Irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) Colon polyps Heartburn or GERD Constipation Undiagnosed symptoms

My WCH Gastroenterologist has prescribed me medications for my GI condition. Is it safe for me to get a vaccine when I am on them?

Yes. Most medications prescribed by your GI doctor at Women’s College Hospital are in no way related to your immune system and have no impact on your vaccine.

If you are on **immune-suppressing medications**, like prednisone, azathioprine (Imuran), 6-mercaptopurine (6-MP), methotrexate, infliximab (remicade), adalimumab (Humira), golimumab (Simponi), vedolizumab (Entyvio), ustekinumab (Stelara), tofacitinib (Xeljanz), **and they are prescribed by Drs. Bollegala, Stal or Zenlea**, then we support getting your vaccine and not adjusting the timing of your medications in relation to the timing of your vaccine. In other words, get your vaccine on the date that it is offered to you, and continue your medication on the usual schedule. We recognize that there is no direct data, meaning the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines have not been studied directly in people on immune-suppressing medications for a GI disease, but there is no reason to expect that any potential vaccine harm will outweigh expected vaccine benefits.

Please note that if you are on these medications and they are prescribed by a physician other than Drs. Bollegala, Stal or Zenlea, then this information does not apply, and you should be in touch with the prescribing doctor.

Does it matter which vaccine I get?

At this time, there is no preference for one particular vaccine. Based on data and expert opinion, we strongly recommend that you get whichever vaccine is offered to you first.

Will you write me a note to bring to my vaccine appointment?

Doctors notes are not required and will not be provided.

How to register for a vaccine?

To register based on your health status, please register through our partner hospital [UHN](#). This does not give you immediate access to an appointment. You will be contacted once an appointment is available based on supply.

Eligibility criteria based on age can be booked through [Ontario.ca/BookVaccine](https://ontario.ca/BookVaccine).