

Instructions for the vaccination of people who are very vulnerable to COVID-19 due to underlying medical conditions

The vast majority of the people concerned are followed in hospitals specializing in adult care. Institutions must plan and provide services in the hospitals where these patients are followed, including university hospitals.

People eligible for vaccination:

1. Patients who are hospitalized because of their chronic disease and who do not have COVID-19. The chronic diseases concerned are:
 - Heart disease
 - Lung disease
 - Kidney disease
 - Obesity
 - Hypertension
 - Diabetes
 - Immunosuppression (according to the immunosuppression list established by INESSS: [COVID-19 Immunosuppression.pdf \(inesss.gc.ca\)](https://www.INESSS.gc.ca/COVID-19/Immunosuppression.pdf))
 - Including people receiving active cancer treatment
 - Sickle cell anemia
 - Down syndrome
 - Any pathology that causes significant difficulties in managing respiratory secretions
 - Presence of more than one chronic disease.
2. Patients with the following conditions who are followed on an outpatient basis:
 - Patients on dialysis for kidney failure;
 - Solid organ transplant (in particular heart or lung)
 - Stem cell or bone marrow transplant based on the transplant physician's assessment;
 - Where relevant in the opinion of the treatment team, vaccination of people *before* a transplant, when the transplant is going to be carried out in the short term;
 - Oncology (patients receiving active treatment):
 - ✓ Applies to chronic lymphoid leukemia in some circumstances;
 - ✓ Lung cancer, especially if radical radiation therapy;
 - ✓ Cancer whose treatment causes severe immunosuppression based on clinical judgement (e.g., some forms of chemotherapy);
 - ✓ Need to vaccinate a patient receiving cancer treatment at a specific time in their treatment cycle given anticipated fluctuations in immune function.
 - Neurodegenerative problems at an advanced stage or other condition leading to significant difficulties in managing respiratory secretions;
3. Patients who need to receive a dose of vaccine under the supervision of an allergologist

Vaccination in hospitals may also include, depending on the doses available:

- Health care workers covered by the ministerial directive who are not yet vaccinated or who are due for a 2nd dose after a 16-week interval;
- People 60 years of age and older who are hospitalized, especially those waiting to be admitted to a CHSLD.

Institutions must determine the number of people to be vaccinated in collaboration with the relevant clinical teams (dialysis, allergology, transplant medicine, oncology, etc.) and report the number to the COVID-19 vaccination campaign director concerned. Campaign directors will inform the ministerial logistics team of the number to determine dose allocations.

The organization of services may be adapted according to local procedures, taking into account the following recommendations:

- Use vaccination sites already in operation in some hospitals
- Deliver vaccines to a hospital that has a Regional Vaccine Depot
- Use mobile vaccination teams that already go to CHSLDs, RPAs or other facilities to run temporary vaccination clinics in hospitals.

These client groups must be vaccinated as quickly as possible and all applicable instructions (vaccination register, inventories, etc.) must be followed as for the vaccination sites in operation.