



COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Considerations for Specific Populations

The vaccine has been proven to be safe and effective for most people aged 16 and older, but many individuals still have questions about vaccine safety. As a homeless services provider, individuals may ask you about whether the vaccine is safe for them based on their age, health conditions, or other demographics. There are a number of tools to help you answer these questions. There is a summary of considerations for specific populations below, [guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) is available online, and, if a significant number of the individuals you speak with have questions regarding whether they should avoid the vaccine because of health conditions or allergic reactions, you may want to arrange for a health care provider to be available to answer their questions.

Group	Recommendation	Additional Information
Women who are pregnant or breastfeeding	YES, but consult your healthcare provider first.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pregnant women and their babies are at higher risk from COVID-19 and should take as many precautions as possible to avoid infection.• Pregnant or breastfeeding women should talk to their healthcare providers about whether to be vaccinated.
Children	NO.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vaccines have not been approved for children or youth under the age of 16.• Precautions such as masking, social distancing, and hand washing are the best methods for protecting younger children from COVID-19.
People with certain medical conditions	YES.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adults and youths aged 16 and older who have ANY of these underlying medical conditions may be at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and should be vaccinated:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Asthma (moderate to severe)◦ Cerebrovascular disease◦ Cystic fibrosis◦ High blood pressure◦ Blood or bone marrow transplant◦ HIV◦ Use of corticosteroids, or use of other immune-weakening medicine◦ Neurologic conditions such as dementia◦ Liver disease◦ Pulmonary fibrosis◦ Thalassemia◦ Type 1 diabetes mellitus◦ Overweight

Group	Recommendation	Additional Information
Older Adults	YES.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adults 65 and older are five times more likely to be hospitalized with COVID-19 and should be vaccinated as soon as possible.
People who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past	YES.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is safe for people who have tested positive to be vaccinated and, since reinfection is possible, the vaccine can prevent these individuals from getting COVID-19 again.
People who have had severe or immediate allergic reactions	MAYBE; talk to your healthcare provider.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaccine administration sites screen patients for potential allergic reactions and are prepared to treat any immediate allergic reactions that occur. Direct individuals to find out more about their potential risks by visiting the CDC website and getting advice from a health care provider.