



COVID-19 Vaccine Safety Considerations for Specific Populations

RELEASED:
Feb. 2022

UPDATED:
Aug. 2022

The vaccine has been proven to be safe and effective for most people aged 6 months and older, but many individuals still have questions about vaccine safety. As a homeless services provider, individuals may ask you whether the vaccine is safe for them based on their age, health conditions, or other demographics. There are several 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. These are broad recommendations; if there are any concerns, questions, or hesitations, people should seek guidance from a health care provider. The following information is not intended to provide medical advice.

Group	Recommendation	Additional Information
Women who are pregnant or breastfeeding	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• People who are pregnant or breastfeeding and their babies are more likely to get very sick from COVID-19 and should take as many precautions as possible to avoid infection.• Vaccination during pregnancy builds antibodies that can help protect the baby.
Children	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vaccines are recommended for everyone six months and older.• Precautions such as the birth parent or guardian getting vaccinated and having those around the child continue masking, social distancing, and hand washing are the best methods for protecting unvaccinated children less than six months old from COVID-19.
People with certain medical conditions	YES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• People aged six months and older who have ANY of these underlying medical conditions are more likely to get sick from COVID-19 and should be vaccinated:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cancer• Chronic kidney disease• Chronic liver disease• Chronic lung diseases, including asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease• Cystic fibrosis• Dementia or other neurologic conditions• Diabetes (type 1 or 2)• Disabilities• Heart conditions• HIV infection• Immunocompromised condition or weakened immune system• Mental health conditions• Overweight and obesity• Physical inactivity• Pregnancy• Sickle cell disease or thalassemia• Smoking (current or former)• Solid organ or blood stem cell transplant• Stroke or cerebrovascular disease• Substance use disorders• Tuberculosis

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"> You should get a COVID-19 vaccine even if you already had COVID-19. 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 already had COVID-19 and do not get vaccinated after their recovery are more likely to get COVID-19 again than those who get vaccinated after their recovery.
People with allergies	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. CDC recommends that people get vaccinated even if they have a history of severe allergic reactions not related to vaccines or injectable medications—such as food, pet, venom, environmental, or latex allergies. If you aren't able to get one type of COVID-19 vaccine because you are allergic to an ingredient in that vaccine, ask your doctor if you should get a different type of COVID-19 vaccine.