

COVID-19 vaccines and transplant

UPDATED: March 23, 2021

BC Transplant and the transplant programs follow the vaccine use criteria and guidance from the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), the Ministry of Health and the Provincial Health Officer. Together these BC public health officials determine who is eligible to receive the vaccines.

To protect yourself from COVID-19 before and after vaccination, continue to follow all public health measures including:

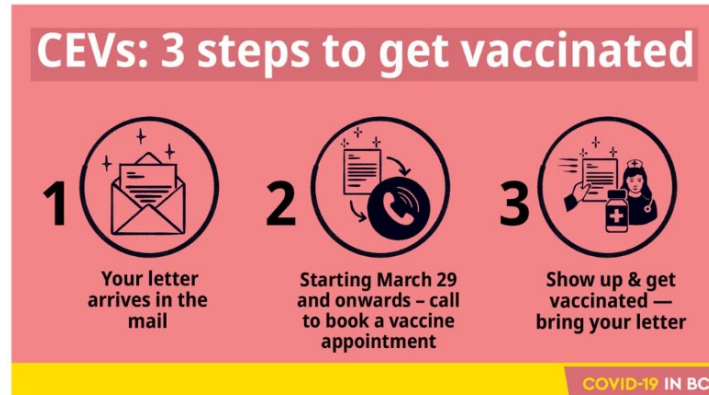
- Physical distancing
- Washing hands often
- Wearing a mask

Please visit the [BC Centre for Disease Control website](#) for the most current information on COVID-19 vaccines in BC.

When and how do transplant patients get vaccinated?

BC announced its plan to vaccinate those who are at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19 if they were to get the virus. This group is called ‘clinically extremely vulnerable’ (CEV) patients which includes post-transplant recipients.

To learn more about the vaccination process for CEV patients, go to www.gov.bc.ca/cevcovid.



- (1) **Watch for your letter** from Dr. Bonnie Henry. This should arrive to you by April 15.
- (2) **After you get your invitation letter, you can book your vaccination appointment after Monday, March 29**, no matter your age group. For booking instructions, consult your letter or go to www.gov.bc.ca/cevcovid.
- (3) **Get vaccinated** - remember to bring your letter and ID (CareCard/BC Services Card) when you go to your vaccine appointment.

NOTE: If you have not received your letter by April 15, please reach out to your transplant team for assistance.

How do I learn more about COVID-19 vaccine in transplant patients?

Visit the [CEV transplant recipient patient information](#) on the BCCDC website.

What is known about the use of vaccines in pre-transplant patients?

Pre-transplant patients were not specifically included in the existing vaccine clinical studies. However, people with generally normal immune systems were included, including some with a variety of chronic health conditions that would lead to transplantation. You are encouraged to get vaccinated against COVID-19 as soon as you are eligible.

What should I do after I receive the vaccine? Do I still need to practice physical distancing and wear a mask?

Yes, everyone who is vaccinated will still need to follow ALL public health [orders](#) and [advice](#) on limiting social contacts, physical distancing, mask wearing, and washing hands. This is because we know the vaccine protects against COVID-19, but we do not yet know how long the protection lasts and whether it prevents transmission to others.

Keep your record of immunization as it contains important information about the date and type of vaccine you receive.

More information

- BC Government: [COVID-19 vaccines](#)
- BC Centre for Disease Control: [COVID-19 vaccine information](#)
- Clinically Extremely Vulnerable population (transplant recipients): www.gov.bc.ca/cevccovid

This document is current as of March 23, 2021. Check the BC Transplant or the BCCDC website for the most current available information and updates.