

Individuals at High Risk for Vaccine Preventable Disease

All considerations and recommendations are for pre-exposure situations (i.e., before individuals who are members of one or more of these groups are knowingly exposed to a vaccine preventable disease).

[Table 1: Additional Vaccines Recommended for Immunocompromised Clients](#) provides health care providers with an overview of vaccines to consider when assessing an individual with a health condition that is known to suppress the immune system.

There are a variety of other health conditions that place an individual at increased risk for certain vaccine preventable diseases. Refer to [Table 2: Additional Vaccines Recommended for Individuals with Other Health Conditions](#) for an overview of high risk health conditions and recommended vaccines.

There are a few groups of individuals (e.g., health and child care workers, new Canadians) who require special consideration of their immunization status and who are eligible for certain vaccines. [Table 3: Additional Vaccines Recommended for Select Populations](#) outlines the immunization needs of members of select populations.

When assessing a high risk individual's eligibility for certain vaccines, it is important to assess overall immunization status and current state of health. Unless contraindicated (e.g., live vaccines for immune-suppressed individual), ensure routine vaccines are included in the client's immunization plan. Seasonal influenza vaccine is recommended and provided free to everyone 6 months of age and older. For up-to-date COVID-19 immunization recommendations, refer to [Part 4 – Biological Products, COVID-19 Vaccines](#).

When a client presents with an identified health condition or is identified as being a member of a select population:

- Ascertain the details of client's specified health condition (if applicable).
- Assess the client's immunization and communicable disease history.
- Refer to recommendations relating to the client's medical condition or population.
- Ensure routine immunizations are up-to-date. There is no indication to re-administer a primary immunization series except for Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant (HSCT) and Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cell (CART) Therapy recipients.
- Assess the individual's eligibility for additional recommended vaccines.
- Assess for any contraindications to any recommended vaccines.
- For the administration of live vaccines to immunocompromised individuals, consult the primary care physician, medical specialist or nurse practitioner most knowledgeable about the client's current health status, their immunosuppressive disease, and the vaccine. Refer to [Immunization with Inactivated and Live Vaccines](#).
- For more information on specific vaccines, refer to [Part 4 – Biological Products](#).

Table 1: Additional Vaccines Recommended for Immunocompromised Clients

Note: Only HSCT and CART therapy recipients require re-immunization after treatment, as the patient's immune memory may be lost following treatment. All other immunocompromised individuals should be immunized according to past immunization history and review of recommendations within [Part 2 – Immunization of Special Populations](#), Specific Immunocompromising Conditions and [Part 4 – Biological Products](#).

Immunocompromising Conditions	Vaccines ^A							
	Special Indications						Routine	
	Meningo ^B	PCV	Hib	Hep A	Hep B	HPV	Inactivated	Live
Asplenia (anatomic or functional), including sickle cell disease	✓	✓	✓				✓	SC
Congenital immunodeficiency (e.g., complement, properdin, or factor D deficiency)	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	C
HSCT and CART Therapy recipients	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	SC
HIV infection		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	SC
Immunosuppressive therapy		✓	✓				✓	C
Chronic kidney disease (pre-dialysis and dialysis clients)		✓			✓		✓	SC
Liver disease (chronic)		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
Hepatitis B (chronic)		✓		✓			✓	✓
Hepatitis C (anti-HCV positive)		✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
Malignant neoplasm (adult) ^C		✓	✓				✓	C
Solid organ or islet cell transplant candidate or recipient	✓	✓	✓	liver	✓		✓	SC C-post transplant ^D

C = Contraindicated.

SC = Special considerations exist.

^A This table is intended as an overview only. Refer to the specific immunocompromising conditions in [Part 2 – Immunization of Special Populations](#) and to [Part 4 – Biological Products](#) for specific eligibility indications and schedule information for individual vaccines.

^B Meningo = Meningococcal quadrivalent conjugate vaccine.

^C For pediatric oncology clients, refer to Part 2 – Immunization of Special Populations, [Pediatric \(those under 18 years of age\) Oncology Clients who have Completed Treatment, Including Autologous HSCT](#).

^D Live vaccines are generally contraindicated after transplantation; univalent varicella vaccine may be given to select pediatric organ transplant recipients upon the recommendation of a medical specialist from the Multi-Organ Transplant Clinic at BC Children's Hospital per the Referral Form for Varicella Vaccination.

Table 2: Additional Vaccines Recommended for Individuals with Other Health Conditions

Conditions	Vaccines ^A				
	Special Indications				
	Pertussis	PCV	Hib	Hep A	Hep B
Birth dose for infants at high risk for hepatitis B					✓
Bleeding disorders (e.g., hemophilia)				✓	✓
Chronic heart or lung disease		✓			
CSF leak (chronic)		✓			
Cochlear implant candidate or recipient		✓	✓		
Cystic fibrosis		✓			
Diabetes		✓			
Neurologic disorders		✓			
Pregnancy ^B	✓				
Prematurity		✓ ^C			

Table 3: Additional Vaccines Recommended for Select Populations

Populations	Vaccines ^A			
	Special Indications			
	PCV	Hep A	Hep B	HPV
Health and Childcare Workers			✓	
Students of Healthcare Professions			✓	
Inmates of Provincial Correctional facilities		✓	✓	
Men who have sexual contact with men		✓	✓	✓
Two-Spirit, transgender, and non-binary individuals				✓
People who use illicit drugs	✓	✓	✓	
People experiencing homelessness	✓			

^A Vaccines that are recommended and provided free are included in this table. Individuals may be eligible for other vaccines if other co-existing health conditions exist. Tables are intended as an overview only. For specific eligibility indications and schedule information regarding individual vaccines, refer to [Part 4 – Biological Products](#).

^B Live vaccines are contraindicated during pregnancy.

^C Premature infants with ongoing lung impairment should be immunized using a 4-dose schedule of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine. See [Part 2 – Immunization of Special Populations, Infants Born Prematurely](#).