



Blood Cancers and **COVID-19**

Let's respect and protect each other as we move toward a new normal

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Canada has worked tirelessly to help Canadians affected by a blood cancer to make informed choices about how to protect themselves from the effects of COVID-19. As we adapt to a life after COVID and pandemic restrictions, LLSC encourages everyone to **respect and protect** each other.

RESPECT

and support anyone's decision to continue to wear a mask and keep a physical distance. You never know if the person next to you is taking extra precautions to protect themselves or their loved ones.

PROTECT

people affected by a blood cancer and others who are immunocompromised. We can do this by encouraging these individuals (and everyone around them) to get vaccinated and speak to their doctor about additional precautions they should take.

Why it is important to respect & protect the blood cancer community



Even when fully vaccinated, some people affected by a blood cancer may not get optimal protection.



Some blood cancers attack the immune system, limiting the body's ability to create antibodies. Those least likely to develop antibodies include people with:

- Chronic lymphocytic leukemia
- Diffuse large B-cell lymphoma
- Follicular lymphoma
- Marginal zone lymphoma
- Mantle cell lymphoma
- Waldenstrom's macroglobulinemia



Some cancer treatments deplete the immune systems' B-cells and also interfere with vaccine effectiveness.

LLSC recommends:

- Get all COVID-19 vaccine doses according to your doctor's recommendations
- Consider wearing a mask, especially when exposed to groups of people whose vaccination status is unknown, and in indoor or poorly ventilated spaces.
- **DO NOT DELAY** in seeking medical care if you are immunocompromised and have COVID-19 symptoms.