

General COVID-19 vaccine guidelines for Rheumatology patients

1. Can I get the COVID vaccine?

Based on limited data in patients with autoimmune disorders or in patients who take immunosuppressive medications or therapies, we recommend COVID-19 vaccination to all our patients unless they have any other contraindication. This would include patients who have had a serious allergic reaction to their 1st COVID-19 vaccine or are known to be allergic to any specific components of the vaccine (listed on the CDC website).

Patients with any severe allergic reaction to any other vaccine or injectable therapy (i.e., intramuscular, intravenous, or subcutaneous vaccines or therapies) should consult with their PCP or allergist for individual recommendations.

Allergic reactions to other products such as food, pet, venom, or environmental allergies, or allergies to oral medications are not a contraindication to vaccination with either mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. In addition, there is no contraindication to patients with allergies to latex, eggs or gelatin.

There is also no contraindication if you have already had COVID-19. However, reinfection is uncommon in the 90 days after initial infection. These patients may consider delaying their vaccination until the end of this period.

2. Are you providing the vaccine in your office?

AARA is currently not a designated vaccine site. Please go to your local County website for information on priority levels and how to sign up for your vaccine.

3. Do I need to hold my medications before or after the vaccine?

There is no specific data but based on previous experience with other vaccines, we recommend holding methotrexate for 2 weeks after each dose of your COVID vaccine. There is no need to hold any other biologic or medication. If you are on Rituxan, then you need to talk to your rheumatologist.