



# **COVID-19 AND IMMUNOCOMPROMISED HEALTH:**

**What You Need To Know**

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# The Lingering Threat of COVID-19

Whether immunocompromised or not,  
people are still being hospitalized with COVID-19<sup>2</sup>



**In 2024,**  
COVID-19 caused

**661,000**

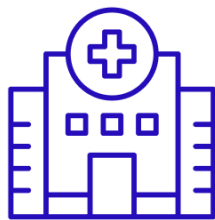
Hospitalizations<sup>2,\*</sup>

**60,800**

Deaths<sup>3,\*</sup>

\*Estimated. From Oct 5, 2023, through Sept 28, 2024; hospitalizations calculated based on US Census Bureau estimate of US population size of 334.9 million and CDC reported rates of hospitalizations.

**Immunocompromised** people are about



as likely to be hospitalized  
with COVID-19<sup>1</sup>



**Immunocompromised people face  
a higher risk of hospitalization<sup>4</sup>**

# What It Means to Be Immunocompromised

In the US,

**1 in 15 people are immunocompromised<sup>5</sup>**



**Conditions that may make you immunocompromised include<sup>6</sup>:**



**Active treatment for cancer or transplant**



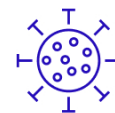
**Blood cancer**



**Organ transplant**



**CAR T-cell treatment or stem cell transplant**



**Primary immunodeficiency disorder**



**Advanced or untreated HIV infection**



**Active treatment with high-dose steroids or other medications that suppress your immune system**





# COVID-19 Can Impact Many Organs

COVID-19 can attack and damage any part of the body, including the stomach, blood vessels, intestines, kidneys, heart, eyes, and brain.<sup>7,8</sup>



## Brain

- Stroke/aneurysm
- Muscle weakness/paralysis
- Meningitis/encephalitis
- Cognitive and motor deficits



## Heart

- Heart attack
- Heart failure
- Viral myocarditis
- Stress cardiomyopathy
- Arrhythmia



## Lungs

- Shortness of breath
- Pneumonia
- Acute respiratory distress



## Skin

- Rash
- Skin lesions or blisters



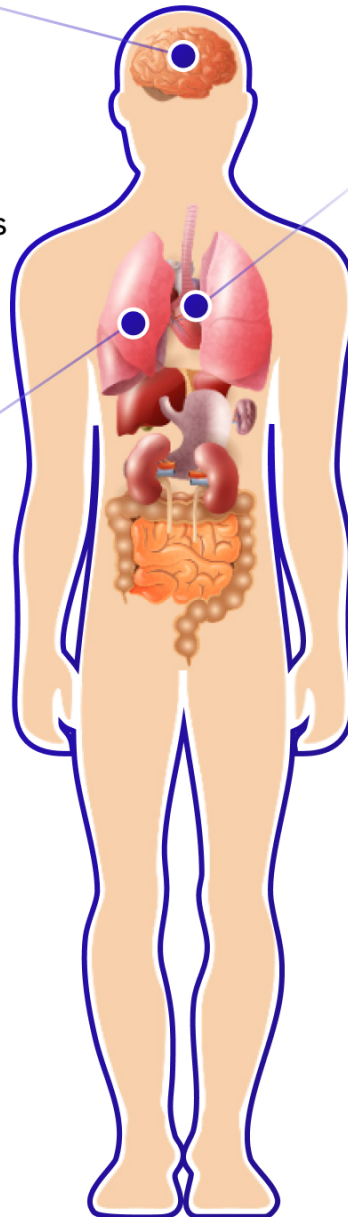
## Blood

- Pulmonary embolism
- Deep vein thrombosis
- Organ and artery blood clots
- Decreased blood platelets



## Whole body

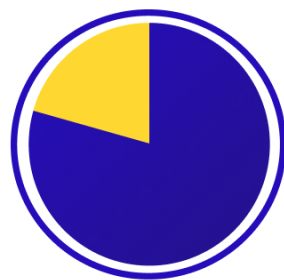
- Liver damage
- Kidney damage
- Cytokine storm
- Increased risk of other infections
- Sepsis





# Most Immunocompromised People Have a Reduced Response to the COVID-19 Vaccine<sup>9</sup>

**Immunocompromised people may need extra COVID-19 vaccine doses.<sup>10</sup>** Even when the recommended COVID-19 vaccination schedule is followed



up to  
**1 in 5  
people**



with an immunocompromising condition

**don't have detectable  
antibodies against COVID-19<sup>11</sup>**

An additional dose of the 2023-2024 vaccine provided protection, but immunocompromised people completely lost protection against hospitalization from COVID-19 within **4 to 6 months.**<sup>10</sup>



**In addition to vaccination,  
immunocompromised people would  
likely benefit from more protection  
from COVID-19<sup>9-11</sup>**

# Multilayered Prevention Increases COVID-19 Protection<sup>12</sup>



The CDC recommends a **multilayered approach to protect** immunocompromised people from COVID-19 due to their increased risk of severe infection.<sup>12,13</sup>



## Practice good hygiene

- Wash your hands properly
- Cover your coughs/sneezes
- Clean frequently touched surfaces



## Consider additional protection

- If your healthcare team thinks that pre-exposure prophylaxis (prevention) is right for you



## Stay up-to-date with COVID-19 vaccination

- Including 1 or more additional doses of vaccine if you are immunocompromised



## Also keep in mind

- Take steps to keep indoor air clean
- Wear a mask when around other people
- Seek healthcare promptly for testing and/or treatment if you are at risk of severe illness

## Vaccine<sup>14</sup>



An important layer, but immunocompromised people may have a reduced response<sup>11</sup>

Triggers an immune response by teaching the body how to produce SARS-CoV-2-specific antibodies

Primes the body to recognize and fight infections

Can build long-term immunity over time

## Monoclonal Antibody<sup>15,16</sup>



Adds an extra layer of protection to help boost the immune system's response to COVID-19<sup>17</sup>

Molecule designed to mimic or augment the natural immune response

Targets specific viral proteins, inhibiting binding to host cells

May offer immediate protection, yet the duration of potential effectiveness may vary

# References

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# Talk to Your Doctor About **COVID-19**

Start the conversation today—protect yourself from COVID-19.

**What is my risk for  
getting very sick from  
COVID-19?**

**What steps should  
I take to prevent  
COVID-19 infection?**

## Additional Resources to Support You



EXPAND THEIR OPTIONS

More information about options  
for COVID-19 prevention

[www.expandtheiroptions.com](http://www.expandtheiroptions.com)



SCAN ME



Learn about vaccines for  
moderately to severely  
immunocompromised people

[https://www.cdc.gov/covid/vaccines/  
immunocompromised-people.html](https://www.cdc.gov/covid/vaccines/immunocompromised-people.html)



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