



# Blood Cancer Patients and COVID-19

## Let's respect and protect each other as we move toward business as usual

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) has worked tirelessly to help blood cancer patients and survivors make informed choices to protect themselves from the profound effects of COVID-19 on their cancer care and daily lives. As the country moves toward “business as usual,” LLS encourages everyone to **respect and protect** each other.

### RESPECT

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

### PROTECT

blood cancer patients 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 we must respect & protect blood cancer patients



Even when fully vaccinated, some blood cancer patients 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 patients 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.

## What LLS recommends for blood cancer patients

1. Get all [COVID-19 vaccine doses](#) according to CDC recommendations.
2. Consider wearing a mask, especially when exposed to groups of people whose vaccination status is unknown, and in indoor or poorly ventilated spaces.
3. **DO NOT DELAY** in seeking medical care if you have COVID-19. There are [antiviral](#) treatments that can help keep you from having severe outcomes if you begin taking them very soon after you test positive of symptoms begin.