

The COVID-19 vaccines will be available to people in Vermont who have certain health conditions. These conditions have been found to put people at more risk for getting really sick from COVID-19 compared to other health conditions.

## **Current Cancer**

People living with cancer have cells that are not normal and divide out of control. These cells can spread to other tissues that make up organs in the body. Cancer cells can move to other parts of the body through the blood and other systems. Many cancers are named after the part of the body they impact (for example, lung cancer begins in the lung).

## **Chronic Kidney Disease**

People living with chronic kidney disease have kidneys that have become damaged or cannot clean the blood as well as healthy kidneys. When the kidneys don't work well, wastes and extra water build up in the body. This can cause heart disease, high blood pressure, and other health problems.

## **COPD, Including Emphysema and Chronic Bronchitis**

COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease) is a group of diseases that cause your airway to be blocked and can make it hard to breathe. Emphysema and chronic bronchitis are two kinds of COPD.

## **Heart Disease**

This includes several chronic illnesses that hurt the heart. This includes heart attack, heart failure, congestive heart failure, and coronary artery disease or ischemic heart disease (not enough blood and oxygen can reach the heart). Coronary artery disease can cause angina, or bad pain in the chest. Other heart diseases include cardiomyopathies (conditions that make it harder for the heart to pump blood) and pulmonary hypertension (high pressure in the blood vessels leading to the heart). High blood pressure is not included.

## **Immunocompromised (Weakened Immune System)**

People with this condition are not able to fight off infections because their immune system is not working well. This can be due to solid organ transplant, blood or bone marrow transplant, or immune deficiency diseases. This also includes people who have HIV and a low CD4 cell count or are not on HIV treatment. Using corticosteroids or other drugs can also make the immune system weaker.

## Severe Obesity (BMI of 40 or above)

Weight that is considered above what is healthy for a given height – for example, someone who is 65 inches, or 5 feet 5 inches tall, and weighs 240 pounds has a BMI of 40.

## Pregnancy

Pregnant people are included in the health conditions phase because those who are pregnant are at an increased risk of becoming very sick from COVID-19.

## Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetes

People with diabetes have pancreases that do not use insulin well. Insulin is a hormone created by the body to help break down energy (sugar) from food.

## Disabilities

Disabilities that put people at the highest risk of becoming very sick from COVID-19 include chromosomal disorders, like Down syndrome; intellectual disabilities; and disabilities that make it hard for lungs to work, including cystic fibrosis.

## Sickle Cell Disease

Blood cell disorders that cause the body to have too few red blood cells and cause red blood cells to change into a “C” shape, which makes them get stuck in blood vessels and stop blood from flowing.