

Vermont COVID-19 Vaccine Implementation Advisory Committee

High-Risk Chronic Conditions

The CDC has found that adults of any age with the following conditions **are at increased risk** of severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19:

- [Cancer](#)
- [Chronic kidney disease](#)
- [COPD \(chronic obstructive pulmonary disease\)](#)
- [Down Syndrome](#)
- [Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies](#)
- [Immunocompromised state \(weakened immune system\) from solid organ transplant](#)
- [Obesity \(body mass index \[BMI\] of 30 kg/m² or higher but < 40 kg/m²\)](#)
- [Severe Obesity \(BMI ≥ 40 kg/m²\)](#)
- [Pregnancy](#)
- [Sickle cell disease](#)
- [Smoking](#)
- [Type 2 diabetes mellitus](#)

The Advisory Committee convened a clinical sub-group and endorsed the list with the following caveats.

- The list will be revised as more evidence becomes available.
- Only current smokers are included in the Committee's recommendations.
- The evidence for increased risk with Obesity indicates that higher BMIs are associated with higher risk. In Vermont, even in the category of Severe Obesity, there have been only a small number of hospitalizations for COVID-19. Given this and the limited vaccine supply, consideration should be given to only including Severe Obesity in the list.
- If age bands are included in prioritization for Vermonters with chronic conditions, there are several conditions that are age independent and should be included in a list at any age.
 - Down Syndrome
 - Pregnancy
 - Sickle cell disease