



**GI AND LIVER PATIENTS:
WILL YOU FIGHT FLU?**

#FightFlu

Even during COVID-19, don't hesitate to start the conversation with your health care provider and make a plan to get vaccinated for seasonal flu and for other vaccine-preventable diseases. Make sure your family is up-to-date too!



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VACCINE INFORMATION FROM AMERICAN COLLEGE OF GASTROENTEROLOGY

Vaccines: More Important Now Than Ever

The use of vaccines is particularly important during the COVID-19 pandemic for patients with gastrointestinal conditions and chronic liver diseases, including inflammatory bowel disease and liver transplantation.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, significantly fewer primary care and specialty physician visits occur in-person as more patients have telemedicine appointments. This has already resulted in a decline in vaccination rates across the United States. What is especially problematic is that certain patients such as those with IBD and post-liver transplantation are already at an increased risk for many vaccine-preventable diseases. We all want to minimize further strain to our healthcare system by avoiding these vaccine-preventable diseases.

Vaccines: Safe and Effective

Vaccines are safe and effective in patients with gastrointestinal diseases, including those with liver transplant and IBD. There is no data that vaccination will worsen the disease activity of patients with IBD. Patients with IBD should follow all age-appropriate vaccination recommendations by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

Vaccines: Where and When

Sometimes patients with GI and liver conditions get vaccines from their family doctor or primary care physician, other times from their gastrointestinal or liver specialist. Since you are likely to have fewer in-person medical appointments, consider getting your vaccines at alternative places such as your local pharmacy or infusion center, or scheduling a “vaccine visit” with a nurse.

Vaccines: Call-to-Action

Even during COVID-19, don't hesitate to start the conversation with your health care provider and make a plan to get vaccinated for seasonal flu and for other vaccine-preventable diseases such as pneumonia, shingles, hepatitis B, HPV, and more. Make sure your family is up-to-date too!

#FightFlu #SleeveUp #FluShot #FluSeason #NoTimeForFlu #ShotWave

