

COVID-19 is caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). Studies show that people with conditions including chronic liver disease (particularly cirrhosis), may be at higher risk of death from COVID-19. People with advanced chronic liver disease (CLD) are often frequently hyporesponsive to licensed vaccines. The American Association for the Study of Liver Disease (AASLD) has published a document featuring safety and efficacy data regarding COVID-19 vaccines use in CLD patients and liver transplant recipients.



COVID-19 VACCINATION IN PEOPLE WITH CHRONIC LIVER DISEASE

Due to the increased mortality caused by COVID-19 infection in adult CLD patients (particularly those with cirrhosis), AASLD recommends these people are prioritised for the COVID-19 vaccination. Although safety and efficacy data regarding vaccine use for these patients is currently limited, it is not expected the vaccines will cause more frequent negative reactions or be less efficient for them compared to other groups. However, further research is needed to support these findings.

Although studies of patients with alcohol-associated liver disease suggest they may have worse outcomes with COVID-19, it is unknown if vaccination safety or efficacy will differ compared to other CLD patients.

Note: This document will be updated as new research becomes available. For more information about COVID-19 and liver disease view the full AASLD document: <https://www.aasld.org/about-aasld/covid-19-and-liver>



**Hepatitis B help, care and support
(Hepatitis B āwhina tiaki me te tautoko)**

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