



**CELIAC RESEARCH
PROGRAM**
HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

Celiac Disease and COVID-19 Webinar Q&A

Does having celiac disease increase your risk for developing severe COVID-19?

No.

Does having celiac disease increase a child's risk for developing MIS-C after COVID-19?

No.

Is getting the COVID-19 vaccine safe for people with celiac disease?

Yes, getting the vaccine is safe and recommended for people with celiac disease.

Is one vaccine for COVID-19 preferable over any other for people with celiac disease?

No. At this time there are three vaccines authorized via Emergency Use Authorization by the FDA (BNT162b2-Pfizer, mRNA-1273-Moderna, Ad25COV2.s-J&J). These vaccines have not been tested head-to-head to compare with one another. It is recommended that people with celiac disease get the vaccine that is available first to them.

Does a celiac disease diagnosis qualify an individual to get a vaccine early?

No. Celiac disease is not considered an increased risk factor for developing severe COVID-19, so therefore does not qualify for a priority vaccination group. Please check state guidelines to determine when you are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Does the increased risk of hyposplenism in 30% of patients with celiac disease pose a risk for contracting the SARS-CoV2 virus or taking the vaccine?

It is well-described that approximately 30 percent people with celiac disease have hyposplenism, or a low function of the spleen. Most of the time, this poor function of the spleen does not translate into any clinical outcomes and has no adverse consequences. There is no increased risk in contracting the SARS-CoV2 virus in individuals with well-controlled celiac disease. There is a small percentage of patients with celiac disease with hyposplenism who have an increased susceptibility to infection, and for that small percentage of patients, there may be an increased risk. For more information, please check out this video at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBXMeLs03E&list=PLj4_ETLWVYGidhQLZaZg6mCduyxXZA7j_&index=2