

# COVID ROOC

## More Information Bank

### FAQs

***Note: Not all sources are peer-reviewed whereas some are reviews and interesting blogs. They are not intended in themselves to guide patient management decisions.***

Q. Should patients with rheumatic or dermatologic autoimmune inflammatory diseases opt for the COVID-19 mRNA vaccine booster while on immunosuppressants?

A. The American College of Rheumatology (ACR) has updated its COVID-19 vaccine guidance for patients with rheumatic diseases by recommending a third dose of the mRNA vaccine in those receiving immunomodulatory therapy. Furthermore, experts suggest that rheumatologists and dermatologists should counsel their patients to hold certain immunomodulatory medications for one to two weeks following the booster dose if the nature of autoinflammatory disease activity allows.

An ACR Task Force could not meet consensus whether as TNF inhibitors and several interleukin-17, IL-12/23, IL-23, IL-1R, IL-6R antagonists would impair vaccine response to the point that would demand their temporary interruption. More research will be needed before valid recommendations endorse holding or continuing these immunomodulators when COVID vaccine boosters are administered. Also, patients using rituximab or other anti-CD20 medications should discuss appropriate timing with their providers before receiving a third dose, although the answers are unclear.

<https://www.rheumatology.org/About-Us/Newsroom/Press-Releases/ID/1161>