

# **Inject to Protect:**

Immunizations<sup>1</sup> help cancer patients protect themselves during treatment and sometimes prevent certain cancers.

## **Immunizations to prevent cancer:**

- Human papillomavirus (HPV) is a risk factor for cervical, vaginal, penile, anal and mouth/throat cancers. It is recommended that boys and girls get vaccinated against HPV at ages 11 or 12. For extended recommendations go to [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/hpv/hcp/recommendations.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/hpv/hcp/recommendations.html).
- Hepatitis B Virus (HBV) can lead to liver cancer and is the only cancer causing hepatitis that has an immunization. See the [CDC](http://www.cdc.gov) recommendations for vaccination.

## **Immunizations to protect you when you have cancer:**

- Influenza or Flu vaccine is recommended<sup>2</sup> for people receiving active cancer treatment, often before treatment starts<sup>1</sup>. You should NOT get the nasal spray immunization because that is a live weakened virus.
- Ask your doctor if there are any immunizations you should or shouldn't get while you are going through treatment, like the [COVID vaccine](http://www.cdc.gov). Vaccines made with live attenuated (weakened) viruses should NOT be given to patients with weakened immune systems including people receiving chemotherapy.

## **Immunizations to protect you when you have your spleen removed:**

Your spleen is an important organ in your immune system. It produces white blood cells that help your body fight infection. When your spleen is removed or isn't functioning properly, your risk for infection increases. If your spleen will be removed, your surgeon will instruct you to get certain immunizations at least 2 weeks before your surgery. [Recommended vaccines](http://www.cdc.gov) include Pneumococcal vaccine, Meningococcal vaccine and Flu Vaccine.

## **3 Places to get immunized<sup>1</sup>:**

1. Travel Clinics such as [Passport Health](http://www.passporthealth.com)
2. Your county health department
3. Grocery store pharmacies and drugstores like CVS and Walgreens

## **Resources:**

- Centers for Disease Control <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/adults/index.html>
- Immunizations for Cancer Survivors <https://pearlpoint.org/immunizations-for-cancer-survivors/>
- NCCN COVID-19 Vaccination Guide for People With Cancer [https://www.nccn.org/docs/default-source/covid-19/covid-vaccine-and-cancer-05.pdf?sfvrsn=45cc3047\\_14](https://www.nccn.org/docs/default-source/covid-19/covid-vaccine-and-cancer-05.pdf?sfvrsn=45cc3047_14)
- Prevent Cancer Infections <https://www.preventcancerinfections.org/>
- Up to Date Vaccines for adults [www.uptodate.com/contents/vaccines-for-adults-beyond-the-basics](http://www.uptodate.com/contents/vaccines-for-adults-beyond-the-basics)



<sup>1</sup>Talk with your healthcare provider before getting immunized.

<sup>2</sup>American Cancer Society [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)