

Immunizations

Talk to your oncologist before your child receives any vaccines.

Immunizations (vaccines) are an important part of your child's health care. However, your child should not receive any live vaccines while on treatment.

Examples of live vaccines are: the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR), chicken pox vaccine, and the intranasal flu vaccine. Live vaccines can cause illness in children who are at increased risk of infection. Your provider may also recommend that your child should not receive other types of vaccines while on treatment. You should always check with your provider first before your child receives any vaccines while on treatment.

Can my other children receive immunizations?

Yes! Brothers and sisters (siblings) of patients are allowed to be immunized with all the normal vaccines required for healthy children. Always call your provider if a sibling develops symptoms after receiving any vaccine.

Please note the following: Hematopoietic stem cell transplant patients must speak with his/her provider before any family member gets the chicken pox vaccine. (Refer to Chickenpox and Shingles after Transplant teaching sheet.)

What about Flu (influenza) shots?

It is strongly recommended that all patients and their household contacts receive a flu shot each year. Patients may receive their flu shot in the clinic. Family members and siblings can receive flu shots from their health care provider or at special flu shot clinics.

Patients, siblings family members and contacts **SHOULD NOT** receive the nasal flu vaccine (FLUMIST) for seasonal influenza or for the H1N1 virus.

Contact Us

For patient care assistance, please call the following phone numbers:

- Jimmy Fund Clinic (617) 632-3270
Business Hours 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday
- Page Operator (617) 632-3352
Off hours: weekdays after 5 p.m., holidays, and weekends
Page pediatric hematology/oncology fellow on call
- Life Threatening Emergencies dial 911