



As COVID-19 restrictions lift and life returns to a new normal, the lives of immunocompromised (IC/IS) blood cancer patients **remain at risk**.

The pandemic has resulted in the **deterioration of mental health**.

**Stressing factors** of being immunocompromised:

- being less protected than others in society
- impact of continued isolation and separation from social environment
- uncertainty of personal risk and how to navigate society.



# A Voice for the Vulnerable!

We call on **your help** and **consideration** to aid those most vulnerable to COVID-19 to be able to **reengage with the world** despite the relaxation or even abolishment of public safety measures.

**Principles** that can inform best practices for the IC/IS community:

1. IC/IS blood cancer patients must be included in the **priority treatment groups** with those considered at high risk and most vulnerable to COVID-19 infection.
2. Everyone, regardless of their immune status, **should be vaccinated**.
3. IC/IS patients as well as HCPs need to better **understand and assess risk appropriately** in order to inform response and management based on individual circumstances.
4. Strategies and actions for IC/IS need to rely on **antivirals and COVID-19 monoclonal antibodies**. Relevant **research** going on in the fields of prophylactics and therapeutic antibodies needs to be encouraged.
5. IC/IS patients need to **re-engage with the world** to ensure their overall **mental and physical wellbeing**. However, they need support to help them do so.
6. **Safety measures** and **masking** should continue in any **clinical setting** when treating IC/IS patients.

## Help us **keep safe in the world!**

### About the ICBCC:

In late 2021, a multi-stakeholder coalition consisting of representatives from the global patient advocacy and clinical community formed the International COVID-19 Blood Cancer Coalition (ICBCC) to address the specific impact of COVID-19 on immunocompromised blood cancer patients. The Joint Patient Impact Statements and the campaign toolkit and educational materials that the coalition has been releasing since its initiation have been focusing on the changing landscape of the COVID-19 health crisis and has been supporting patients, clinicians, researchers, policy-makers, and the general public with tools and recommendations.



**In their Joint Patient Impact Statement, more than 70 researchers, clinicians, patient organisations and medical societies urge stakeholders to consider IC blood cancer patients in health policy decisions.**

