

COVID-19 Vaccination of specific categories of the population based on serious illness risk factors

The Ministry of Health, as part of the implementation of the National Vaccination Plan for COVID-19, proceeds with the vaccinations of specific population groups on the basis of illness, according to the published list of population groups with increased risk for serious illness.

The vulnerable groups of the population refer to:

- Chronic pulmonary illness.
- Severe Chronic Renal Deficiency.
- Cardiac failure of any etiology (ischemic or non-etiological) stage according to NYHA III or IV.
- Cardiovascular disease
- Congenital heart disease following surgical correction with significant residual damage or uncorrected congenital heart disease with significant residual damage.
- Active use of biological agents (e.g. TNF inhibitors, interleukin inhibitors) or other immunosuppressive drugs.
- Patients with hemoglobinopathy.
- Patients with diabetes mellitus.
- Patients with serious obesity.
- Patients with a history of transplantation.
- Patients with immunodeficiencies.
- Patients with quadriplegia – neurological diseases with pulmonary problems.

For this purpose, an Ad-Hoc Committee has been established, by Ministerial Decision, to prepare a hierarchy plan of vaccination groups based on serious illness according to a specific categorization.

This Committee is composed of the Acting Director of the Medical and Public Health Services and representatives of the Cyprus Medical Association, of the Pancyprian Federation of Patients Associations and Friends, and the Lecturer of the Medical School of the University of Cyprus, Dr Eirini Christaki, on behalf of the Scientific Advisory Committee on coronavirus.

Based on the suggestions of the Ad-Hoc Committee, the Ministry of Health will be informing the respective groups of patients on how they will be able to be included in the prioritized groups for vaccination, on the procedure through which they will be able to express their interest for vaccination, as well as on the planning of their appointment.

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