

**Open letter to the Prime Minister of Canada and the
Provincial and Territorial Premiers. We need your help!**

**From Concerned Cancer Patients
and their Patient Group Representatives**

Urgent changes needed.

**For COVID-19 vaccines to provide the best
protection against the virus for cancer patients,
the COVID-19 vaccine rollout across Canada
MUST CHANGE URGENTLY.**

As cancer patients, family members and oncology patient group representatives, we call upon the Federal, Provincial and Territorial governments to rollout the COVID-19 vaccines to cancer patients across Canada according to **best clinical trial evidence** and the **advice of their doctors**.

That means receiving the first and second doses of the available COVID-19 within 21 – 28 days.

Findings from recent studies show that the immune response that occurs after the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine in seniors¹ and cancer patients² is reduced compared to the response in healthy individuals, leaving these individuals vulnerable without their second dose. Waiting up to four months between first and second doses leaves cancer patients at greater risk of **inadequate** defence against COVID-19.

**Cancer Patients Are Asking ALL LEVELS
OF GOVERNMENT TO HELP!**

It is imperative that changes be made.

The present rollout recommendations and practices of up to **4 months** between the first and second doses has the potential to put the lives of cancer patients in jeopardy.

Patients are calling on the Federal and Provincial/Territorial governments, including local administrators, to protect those who are amongst the most vulnerable.

**Up to 4 weeks between
vaccine doses for cancer
patients, NOT 4 months.**
#4weeksnot4months

Federal Government:

Revise the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) recommendation for cancer patients to receive the 2 doses of the vaccines within 21 – 28 days of each other, as approved by Health Canada.

Provincial and Territorial Governments Including Local Administrators:

Ensure that the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccines for cancer patients for the first and second doses is within 21 – 28 days of each other. Ensure adequate directives and resources are provided to achieve this goal.

To learn more, visit: VaccineAction.ca

Signatories:



**CANADIAN
NEUROENDOCRINE
TUMOUR SOCIETY**



**lung health
starts
now**



**LEUKEMIA &
LYMPHOMA
SOCIETY
OF CANADA***



**Coalition
Priorité Cancer
au Québec**



**save your skin
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**RISCC
Réseau d'informations et soutien
pour le cancer colorectal**



**LUNG
CANCER
CANADA**



**COLORECTAL
CANCER
CANADA**



**MYELOMA
CANADA**



**Kidney
Cancer
CANADA**



**BLADDER
CANCER
CANADA**



**CANADIAN CANCER
SURVIVOR NETWORK**



**CLL
CANADA**



**GIST Sarcoma Life Raft Group Canada
Groupe Sauvetage GIST Sarcome Canada
Ensuring that no one has to face GIST alone**



**badgut.org
Gastrointestinal Society
Société gastro-intestinale**

1. Brockman, M.A. et al. (2021). Weak humoral immune reactivity among residents of long-term care facilities following one dose of the BNT162b2 mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. MedRxiv. Available at <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.03.17.21253773v12>
2. Monin-Aldama, L. et al. (2021). Interim results of the safety and immune-efficacy of 1 versus 2 doses of COVID-19 vaccine BNT162b2 for cancer patients in the context of the UK vaccine priority guidelines. MedRxiv. Available at: <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.03.17.21253131v1>