

# **MS and COVID-19 Vaccination FAQ**

## **Can I get a vaccination if I have MS?**

Yes, the Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson vaccines can be administered to someone with MS. At this point, there is no preference of one vaccine over another for our patients.

## **Are the vaccines safe?**

Yes, there is no evidence that the vaccines increase the risk of a MS relapse, and people with MS have shown no increased risks of side-effects from the vaccinations.

## **Does the kind of MS medicine I am on matter as to whether the vaccine is safe or not?**

No, all MS medicines appear to be compatible with the vaccines, and it is hoped the protection from COVID-19 infection will be similar for each of the medicines.

## **Is the timing of the vaccination changed by the MS medicine I take?**

Almost all of the shots and pills used to treat MS may be continued while the vaccinations are given, without any adjustment of the dosing. With infusions of Ocrevus, it is our opinion that the vaccinations should be either completed at least 4 weeks before a dose of Ocrevus or started at least 4 weeks after Ocrevus is given. That gives a 4-month window when the vaccines can be given. However, if the vaccine becomes available right before a dose is due, a delay of 1-2 months in Ocrevus dosing is not felt to be significant, so the vaccine can be given first. Mavenclad oral treatment is treated the same as Ocrevus in terms of vaccine timing. Tysabri dosing does not need to be altered, it can be given as scheduled.

## **If I have MS, should I get vaccinated earlier than I would otherwise?**

For most people, the vaccination can be given at the time when others of your age group are cleared to receive it. However, if your MS is more severe and you have a history of severe infections, vaccination should be done at the earliest time possible. Similarly, if there are other risk factors such as heart or lung disease, your group is being called soon, so vaccination should be done as soon as possible. For any questions about your general health, please inquire from your primary care doctor whether you may get on the vaccination list now.

## **Are vaccinations being given at Central Texas Neurology Consultants?**

No, we are not a registered site to receive vaccines.

## **Where should I sign up to get vaccinated?**

We recommend using all available resources to get signed up for a reservation for vaccination. Please see the website link in this portion of our website for a map of the providers.

## **What if I don't want to get vaccinated?**

We will not require COVID vaccination to receive medical care in the future. However, we may continue appointments through telemedicine as long as the risk of infection remains high for unvaccinated patients.