



Statement Regarding the COVID 19 Vaccine and AYAs

Over the past 12+ months the SARS CoV-2 virus (the virus that causes COVID 19) has impacted our society, and more specifically the adolescent and young adult (AYA) cancer community, in drastic ways. For a population already suffering from isolation due to a cancer diagnosis at a critical time in their personal, professional, and emotional development, lockdowns and quarantines have had a devastating effect on not just access to care, but also mental health due to increased isolation and stress.

With the roll out of COVID 19 vaccines across the country, there are questions about the safety and efficacy of the vaccines on cancer patients. First and foremost, Stupid Cancer recommends speaking to your health care team before pursuing any vaccine to fully understand its impact on your treatment and survivorship, specifically if you are receiving immunosuppressive therapy. Immunocompromised individuals, including cancer patients, are more susceptible to severe disease if infected with the SARS CoV-2 virus. That means, if your immune system's defenses are low, you have a greater chance of becoming critically ill or hospitalized with COVID 19.

The three vaccines available in the United States, the Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson vaccines, have all been shown to lower the risk of severe disease. The vaccines work to teach your immune system to recognize the virus and attack it. None of the vaccines contain live viruses so you will not get COVID 19 from the vaccine. And it is important to remember, once the vaccine does its job, it leaves your body. COVID 19 can stick around for much longer.

There is ample evidence illustrating the benefits both to you and your community of getting vaccinated and for these reasons **Stupid Cancer and its [Scientific Medical Advisory Board](#) encourage all AYAs to speak to their doctors about getting vaccinated.**

Learn more about cancer and the COVID 19 Vaccine:

[The American Cancer Society](#)

[Cancer Research Institute](#)

[The American Society of Clinical Oncology](#)

For more information about the vaccine and allergies, please refer to these [CDC guidelines](#).