

Immunocompromised Collaborative

March 3, 2022

Recommendations during the continued evolution of COVID-19

We represent the Immunocompromised Collaborative, which consists of patient organizations representing the approximately 7 million Americans who are immunocompromised across the country and who continue to face serious challenges living with, treating, and responding to the COVID-19 virus. Throughout the pandemic we have advocated for accommodations to protect children and adults who are uniquely susceptible to infections. Individuals who are immunocompromised do not necessarily develop a protective response to the COVID-19 vaccine and need other ways to protect themselves from infectious diseases.

The new Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines to measure community risk have caused grave concerns for the seven million Americans who are immunocompromised. What we are urging as a national approach is to:

- Continue to use and invest in widespread testing. Less reliance on transmission metrics will likely lead to a decrease in testing, which will limit our ability to predict when new waves of infection are coming, making communities more vulnerable. While measuring hospitalizations and deaths is very important, only relying in this metric creates a lag time that limits the ability to address community spread early.
- Encourage wider distribution and dissemination of therapeutics authorized for the prevention and early treatment of COVID-19, such as Evusheld, Paxlovid, and Molnupiravir. For those who don't register a vaccine response, these treatments are critical to combat COVID-19 and we continue to hear that they are not readily available to our community.
- Numerous Americans have experienced telehealth benefits because of the policy changes implemented during the public health emergency brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. For those who are immunocompromised, access to telehealth is essential to ensure continued access to the healthcare services they need while limiting potential exposure the virus whenever possible. We encourage the administration to continue to enable telehealth flexibility, even beyond the pandemic.
- Consult with and include immunocompromised concerns in all future CDC communications about transmission and mitigation guidelines.

Those who are immunocompromised and those who care for them will most likely continue to mask in indoor public spaces and depend on herd immunity from vaccination to prevent infection.

It's critical that the Immunocompromised Collaborative, founded to address pandemic-related issues, continue to provide a voice to those left behind until COVID-19 is no longer a serious threat. And we're not there yet.