



The healthcare improvement experts.  
Renal Network 5

PO Box 29274 • Henrico, VA 23242 • Phone: 804-320-0004 • Fax: 804-320-5918 • www.qirn5.org

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**Patient & Family  
Advisory Committee**

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Dear Fellow Dialysis Patients:

The Patient & Family Advisory Committee is encouraging all dialysis patients to get all their vaccinations, including:

- Influenza (Flu)
- Pneumococcal (pneumonia)
- COVID-19
- Hepatitis B

As dialysis patients, our immune systems are significantly weakened. We have a greater chance of getting severely sick from all types of diseases if we get infected. Infections can also worsen chronic medical conditions, such as congestive heart failure, asthma, or diabetes. *Vaccinations give us the best chance for survival.*

**Infection is the second leading cause of DEATH for dialysis patients.**

Getting an illness from a vaccine is a MYTH. Reasons why you might become sick after getting a vaccine:

- Vaccines can have side effects that make you feel ill.
- Vaccines can take up to 2 weeks to fully protect you. If you are exposed to the virus before then, you may still get it.
- Vaccines are not always perfect matches to the virus you might be exposed to, but they will still offer you protection and minimize the full impact of the virus.

Vaccinations are still the best method for preventing deadly infections and potentially severe complications. Talk to your healthcare team about how and when to get your vaccines.

**Protect yourself, your loved ones, and your community.  
Join us in getting vaccinated!**

Credible sources for more information about infections and vaccinations:

- [Centers for Disease Control](#)   [American Association of Kidney Patients](#)   [American Kidney Fund](#)  
[National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases](#)   [National Kidney Foundation](#)  
[American Society of Nephrology](#)   [Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services](#)