

# Immune-Compromised Canadians and COVID-19

## Factors That Might Make Someone Immune-Compromised



Blood cancers



Active chemotherapy



Dialysis



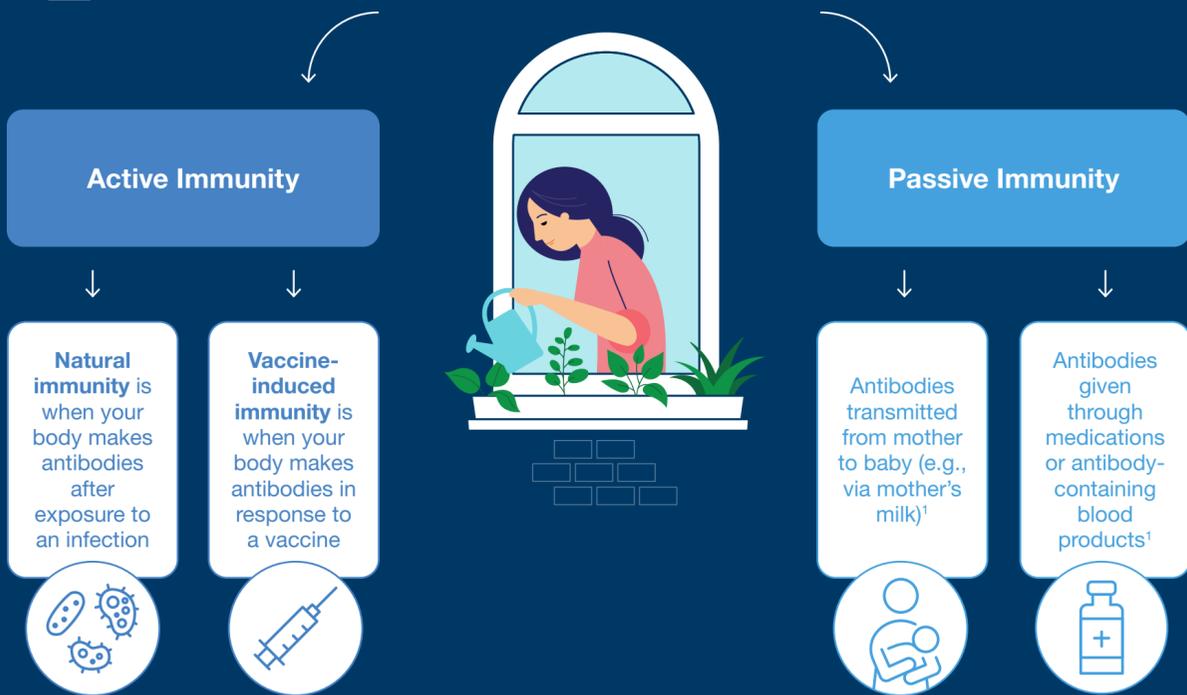
Transplant



Immunosuppressants for autoimmune conditions

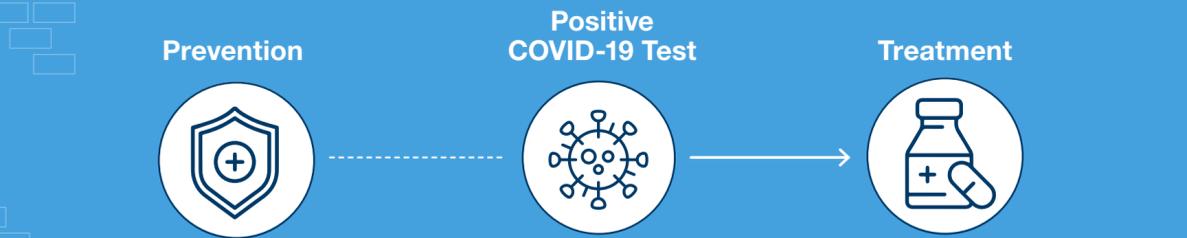
## Understanding Immunity

Immunity to a disease happens through the presence of antibodies to that disease in a person's immune system.<sup>1</sup> Active immunity **develops in response to an infection or vaccination**. Passive immunity is provided when you are given antibodies instead of your own immune system producing them.



## What Options Are Available for the Immune-Compromised Community?

COVID-19 prevention and treatment tools can be used at different times and with different populations.



Prevention	Treatment
<p><b>Vaccines</b></p> <p>Vaccines are the primary option for preventing COVID-19. They work by causing the body to produce its own protection (antibodies) against the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes the COVID-19 infection.<sup>2,3,4,5,6,7</sup></p>	<p><b>Antivirals</b></p> <p>Antivirals are drugs that stop the virus multiplying, which can help the body to overcome the infection and may help a person get better faster.<sup>10,12</sup></p>
<p><b>Monoclonal Antibodies</b></p> <p>Monoclonal antibodies are proteins that work to prevent the SARS-CoV-2 virus from infecting healthy cells in the body, which can help prevent getting COVID-19 illness.<sup>8,9,11</sup> They are not a substitute for vaccination in individuals for whom COVID-19 vaccination is recommended.<sup>8</sup></p>	<p><b>Monoclonal Antibodies</b></p> <p>Monoclonal antibodies are proteins that work by attaching to specific targets on the virus that is causing infection, preventing the virus from entering and infecting the cells within your body.<sup>9,11</sup> This may help reduce the risk of the infection getting worse and/or reduce the risk of hospitalization.<sup>9</sup></p>

*Like all medical interventions, both prevention and treatment options may cause side effects and may not be suitable for all individuals. Side effects can be different for each person, for different medicines and types of treatment.*

## Remain Vigilant



Practice hand hygiene



Wear a mask



Practice social distancing

To learn more, please visit [Canada.ca](https://Canada.ca) or speak with your healthcare practitioner about prevention and treatment options for immune-compromised patients.

[Learn More](#)

