

A statement on COVID-19 vaccination for our PSC community from Dr. CHRISTOPHER L. BOWLUS, Co-Chair of the PSC Partners Scientific/Medical Advisory Committee, Lena Valente Professor of Medicine, and the Chief of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at the University of California Davis School of Medicine:

"Two SARS-Cov-2 vaccines have received emergency use authorization from the FDA with phased allocation of vaccines according to the ACIP COVID-19 Vaccines Working Group (<https://www.cdc.gov/.../slides-12-20/02-COVID-Dooling.pdf>) and individual state guidance. Preventing morbidity and mortality and preserving social functions are the goals of the newest recommendations. Currently, the CDC considers individuals with solid organ transplant (i.e. liver transplant) at increased risk of severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19 and that individuals on immune weakening medicines or with liver disease might be at an increased risk for severe illness from the virus that causes COVID-19. (<https://www.cdc.gov/.../people-with-medical-conditions.html>) To our knowledge there is no data related to severity of COVID-19 specifically in PSC patients.

Since no SARS-CoV-2 vaccine trials have enrolled immunocompromised patients, the safety and efficacy of the vaccines in PSC patients is not yet established. However, immunocompromised patients who have received recombinant protein-based vaccines (for example, Hepatitis B) have historically reported no major side effects, though efficacy is lower. More data about safety and efficacy will likely become available after clinical trials include more varied patient groups and participants are tracked long-term.

PSC patients are strongly advised to talk to their health care providers who can help them weigh the risks and benefits of receiving the vaccine. Importantly, even after receiving the SARS-CoV-2 vaccinations, preventive measures like wearing face masks, maintaining physical distancing from those outside your household, and washing hands frequently will still be required."