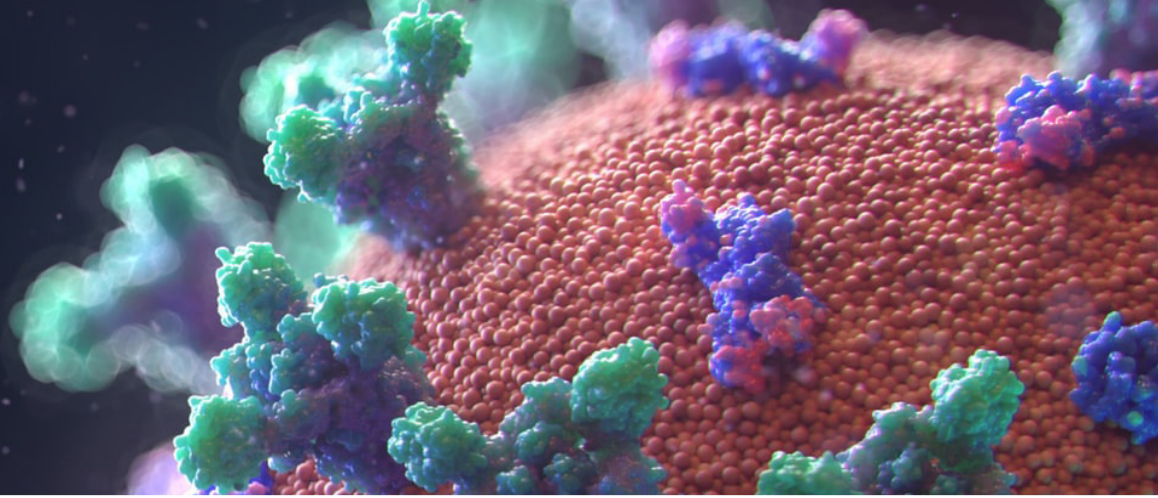


COVID-19 and HIV

October 2021



Vaccines

- Current WHO recommended and EUL – listed COVID-19 vaccines (AstraZeneca/Oxford, Johnson and Johnson, Moderna, Pfizer/BioNTech, Sinopharm, and Sinovac) are safe for people living with HIV.
- No pharmacological interactions have been reported between COVID-19 vaccines and antiretroviral medications, which people living with HIV should continue to take after vaccination to maintain health and well-being.



Increased risk

- Independent of immune status, many people living with HIV have an increased risk of more severe COVID-19 due to diverse co-morbidities.
- People living with HIV can have a greater prevalence of the known risk factors for COVID-19 acquisition and complications, such as heart disease, kidney disease, diabetes, chronic pulmonary disease, obesity, as well as, other comorbidities and co-infections, like tuberculosis.



Continue ART

- Those who are on antiretroviral therapy (ART) must remain on it to reduce health risks and complications during COVID-19, including maintaining viral load suppression.
- Antiretroviral drugs cannot prevent or treat COVID-19 for people living with HIV.



Pregnancy and breastfeeding

- Pregnant and breastfeeding women living with HIV: Although no vertical transmission has been documented. Transmission of COVID-19 after birth via contact with infectious respiratory secretions is a concern.
- As with all confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases, symptomatic mothers who are breastfeeding or practicing skin-to-skin contact or kangaroo mother care should practice **respiratory hygiene**, including during feeding (for example, **use of a medical mask** when near a baby if the mother has respiratory symptoms), **perform hand hygiene** before and after contact with the baby, and routinely **clean and disinfect surfaces** with which the symptomatic mother has been in contact.



Same COVID-19 precautions

- People living with HIV are advised to take the same COVID-19 precautions as recommended for the general population:
 - **wash hands often;**
 - **practice cough etiquette;**
 - **ensure physical distancing;**
 - **wear masks;**
 - **seek medical care if symptomatic;**
 - **self-isolate if one develops symptoms, etc.**
 - **and of course, take the two doses of the vaccine as soon as possible.**

Do it all –
6 precautions



Keep your distance



Wash your hands frequently



Cough & sneeze into your elbow



Wear a mask



Ventilate or open windows



Get vaccinated as soon as vaccine becomes available