



## **CLL Society's Official Statement Concerning CLL (chronic lymphocytic leukemia) Patients During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

January 18, 2024

Dear Healthcare Provider,

Thank you for all you are doing.

CLL Society recognizes that while the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has lessened for many, the risk for the more vulnerable immunocompromised remains high.

Data show that chronic lymphocytic leukemia/small lymphocytic lymphoma (CLL/SLL) patients who have SARS-CoV-2 infections carry a markedly increased risk of mortality and morbidity, including hospitalization, ICU admission, and need for mechanical ventilation. Moreover, there is increasing data that CLL patients are less protected by vaccination<sup>1</sup>. Therefore, consistent with current CDC guidance, please consider their immunocompromised status and prioritize their assessment and management when they ask for your help with a potential or established COVID-19 infection, even if symptoms are mild at the time of presentation.

Immunocompromised patients, including all those with CLL/SLL, regardless of their treatment status, will likely be amongst those who would most benefit from the early use of antiviral therapies to prevent severe infection or hospitalization.

Thank you for your care and dedication in these unprecedented times.

Stay strong. We are all in this together.

Brian Koffman MDCM (retired), MS Ed  
Co-founder, Executive VP, and Chief Medical Officer CLL Society, Inc.

### References:

1: Efficacy of the BNT162b2 mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine in Patients with Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (<https://ashpublications.org/blood/article/doi/10.1182/blood.2021011568/475742/Efficacy-of-the-BNT162b2-mRNA-COVID-19-Vaccine-in>)