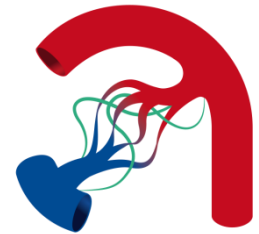




**European
Reference
Network**

for rare or low prevalence
complex diseases

 **Network**
Vascular Diseases
(VASCERN)



VASCERN Pediatric and Primary Lymphedema (PPL) Working Group - Statement concerning SARS-CoV-2 vaccination for patients with lymphedema

General statement:

Follow the national safety advice for social distancing, mask wearing etc.

Vaccination is important for the whole population but it remains your own choice.

Recommendation for vaccination

The national guidelines concerning vaccination are leading

Lymphedema and vaccination against Covid-19

It is very important that you liaise with your GP about your own individual situation as you may have other conditions that need to be taken into account.

People with lymphoedema do not generally have a problem with their immune system, as it is only in the region affected by lymphoedema where the immune cells do not work properly. They work properly elsewhere in the body, providing you do not have a rare genetic form of lymphoedema affecting all of the body, but if this applies to you, you should have already been informed of this. It is therefore safe, in terms of lymphoedema, to have the COVID-19 vaccination and it should work in the same way as in the general population.

However, for those with upper limb swelling or at risk of developing upper limb lymphoedema, it is recommended that injections should be in the unaffected arm. If you have swelling or are at risk of developing lymphoedema in both arms, it is recommended that both injections should be in either the thigh or buttocks (when possible) or in the less affected arm.

More information available at: <https://vascern.eu>