COVID-19 Series for Individuals with 22q11.2 Differences

Immunodeficiencies & COVID-19

Do immunodeficiencies affect the accuracy of COVID-19 testing?
• No. The current nasal swab test for COVID-19 measures the presence of the coronavirus nucleic acids, not the human response towards the virus.

Are people with immunodeficiencies more likely to catch COVID-19?
• We are not sure yet. Nevertheless, a study from China showed that only 2 out of 1099 COVID-19 patients had immunodeficiencies.

Do people who lack antibodies do worse if they catch COVID-19?
• No. Preliminary data showed that in the 6 people who have both antibody disorders and COVID-19, only 1 got severe disease for COVID-19. This risk is similar to that of the general population.
• People who cannot make antibodies will likely not develop immunity.

Do people with T-cell immunodeficiencies do worse if they catch COVID-19?
• T-cells are very important in clearing virus infections in the body.
• COVID-19 is an infection by the “SARS-CoV-2” coronavirus.
• Individuals (including those with 22q11.2 differences) who have T-cell immunodeficiencies may have difficulty clearing coronavirus infections. They should avoid catching COVID-19.
  • Stay home, stay 6 feet away from others, wash hands properly and frequently, and avoid touching the face.
  • Have enough food, necessities, and medications at home for at least 2 weeks.
  • Do not change/stop medications unless your doctor advises you to do so.
  • If you become sick, tell medical personnel about your immunodeficiency.

Please contact the Immunodeficiency Foundation (IDF) if you have an immunodeficiency and you catch COVID-19. This lets researchers gather data to understand the risks of COVID-19 in people with immunodeficiencies.

The mission of the International 22q11.2 Foundation is to improve the quality of life for individuals affected by chromosome 22q11.2 differences through family and professional partnerships. This information is brought to you by the Foundation for educational purposes only. It is not intended to be taken as medical advice. If you have concerns, please talk to your healthcare provider.