



## Immunodeficiencies: What You Need to Know

### *What is an Immunodeficiency?*

An immunodeficiency is a condition in which the immune system does not work as well as it should and as a result the body has a difficult time fighting off infections. Immunodeficiencies result from the body missing a part of the immune system or when a part of the immune system is not functioning as well as it should. A person can be born with a defect in their immune system (primary immunodeficiency) or they can develop a defect in their immune system as a result of a medication or another illness (secondary immunodeficiency).

### *What are signs of an Immunodeficiency?*

- Recurrent or frequent ear, sinus, or lung infections
- Requiring several courses of antibiotics per year
- Difficult to treat infections
- Severe infections such as pneumonia or meningitis that require hospitalization
- Other family members with recurrent infections or known immunodeficiency

### *What do you need to know about COVID-19 and Immunodeficiencies?*

The CDC lists several risk factors for a more severe course of COVID-19. Being immune compromised, such as having an immunodeficiency, is one of the risk factors for a more severe course of COVID-19.

### *What should our existing patients with an Immunodeficiency know?*

- It is extremely important during this time to continue to receive treatment, such as Hyqvia (gammaglobulin) infusions in the office.
- At this time we also recommend continuing to take strict precautions to minimize the risk of infection - including wearing a

mask, frequent hand washing, and social distancing.

If you or a family member have questions or concerns regarding an immunodeficiency, please call our office or schedule an appointment online.

Riverdale office: 973-248-9199

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