

COVID-19 Concerns for Patients in Need of Transplant

Is it safe to get a transplant right now?

There are additional risks, of unknown levels, to receiving an organ transplant during the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are infected with COVID-19, a more severe, maybe life-threatening condition could happen because you will be taking anti-rejection medications that limit your body's ability to fight infection.

What is the UW Health Transplant Center doing to reduce the risks of having a transplant during the COVID-19 pandemic?

- We are testing all donors for COVID-19.
- You will be tested for COVID-19 before you go to surgery.
- We have tight visitor restrictions at the hospital to decrease the potential for COVID exposure to our patients.

Can I get a transplant if I have tested positive for COVID-19?

Contact your transplant team if you test positive for COVID-19 to discuss when it is safe for you to have a transplant.

What precautions should my support person and household contacts take?

To protect the health of our newly transplanted patients as they leave the hospital, we ask that anyone who will be in direct contact with a transplant patient be tested for COVID-19 and avoid exposure by following CDC guidance to the extent possible. Anyone who tests positive should not be with transplant patients until they are fully recovered and have completed their quarantine per CDC guidance. We also recommend that household contacts get vaccinated against COVID 19, when eligible, if no contraindications exist.

Should patients waiting for transplant get the COVID 19 vaccine?

We recommend patients awaiting transplant get the COVID 19 vaccine as soon as they are eligible as long as they do not have contraindications. Notify the transplant team when you receive the vaccine. With the 2-dose vaccines, the team may want to wait until you have received both doses before proceeding with transplant. This will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

What should I do if I am exposed to someone who tests positive for COVID-19?

We recommend you get tested 3-4 days following an exposure and monitor for symptoms per the Center for Disease Control/Public Health guidance. Contact your transplant team if you test positive or develop symptoms to discuss when it is safe for you to have a transplant.

Do you use organs from donors that have COVID-19?

At the present time we do not accept organs from patients that have an active COVID-19 infection. Using organs from patients who have had COVID-19 in the past and have recovered is decided on a case-by-case basis. You will be told if your donor had a positive COVID test in the past.

How do I find out if I can have a visitor/support person come with me to University Hospital?

As with other health care institutions, UW Health adjusts its policy on allowing visitors and food restrictions based on community rates of COVID-19 infections. For the most up-to-date information, always check coronavirus.uwhealth.org before all visits.

What is the best way for a UW Health transplant patient to stay current with COVID-19 information?

Transplant specific information is available via the link [Covid-19 Update](https://uwhealth.org/transplant) found at uwhealth.org/transplant. If you are not already using MyChart, we recommend that you sign up at uwhealth.org.



Transplant Center