

## **COVID 19 Vaccination Information for Transplant Patients**

### **Is it safe for transplant recipients to get vaccinated for COVID-19?**

The COVID-19 vaccines currently available (Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson) are as safe as other vaccines that our transplant recipients receive. We recommend COVID-19 vaccination for transplant patients. The risks associated with getting this vaccine are minimal and are outweighed by the risk of severe illness should you not receive the vaccine and become infected with COVID-19. We do not recommend receiving a live-virus vaccine, however **none** of the currently available vaccines (Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson) contain live virus. The Johnson and Johnson adenovirus is not capable of replication and can be used in transplant recipients.

### **Should I get vaccinated?**

At this time, when it is your turn to be vaccinated, we recommend you get vaccinated.

### **How soon after my transplant should I get vaccinated?**

You should wait 60 days from your transplant date before getting the vaccine. If you are being treated for rejection, you should wait until you complete this treatment before getting the vaccine.

### **Should transplant recipients get a specific vaccine?**

We recommend transplant recipients get whichever of the currently available vaccines they can get the soonest.

### **After being vaccinated, do transplant recipients need to continue taking precautions to prevent COVID-19?**

Because transplant recipients are immunosuppressed, they do not respond as well as others to vaccines. Therefore, it is important that transplant recipients continue to take measures to prevent exposure to COVID-19 such as wearing a mask, washing their hands and social distancing.

### **How can you tell if a transplant recipient has responded to the vaccine?**

At this time, we are not able to tell if a transplant recipient is responding to the vaccine. Clinical trials are being done and the results of the trials will help guide decisions about how to improve the response. Because we do not yet know this information, we do not recommend checking antibody levels after receiving the vaccine.

### **Should household contacts of transplant recipients receive the COVID-19 vaccine?**

We recommend that household contacts receive the vaccine when they are eligible to do so, if they do not have any contraindications. Because transplant recipients do not respond as well to the vaccine, it is important for those around them to be vaccinated when possible.

### **Should I get the COVID-19 vaccine if I had COVID-19?**

Patients who have been diagnosed with and recovered from COVID-19 should follow CDC guidance on timing of vaccination following infection. If you received treatment for COVID-19 your timing for getting the vaccine may differ.

For more information about COVID-19 vaccines, visit: [coronavirus.uwhealth.org/covid-19-vaccine-frequently-asked-questions/](https://coronavirus.uwhealth.org/covid-19-vaccine-frequently-asked-questions/)



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**Transplant Center**