

March 31, 2021

This letter is to confirm that the Multi-Organ Transplant Program at the London Health Sciences Centre recommend that transplant recipients under our care receive one of the available COVID-19 vaccination.

There have been several organ transplant recipients who have developed COVID-19. While some have had only mild symptoms, others have presented with much more severe illness requiring admission to critical care and frequently ventilatory support. There is an increased risk of both severe morbidity and mortality in this population compared to the general population.

With the limited data currently available, we do not know if COVID-19 vaccination will be as effective in transplant patients receiving anti-rejection drugs, as it is in the general public. For this reason, we advise patients to continue to follow public health recommendations and wear masks even after vaccination. We also recommend that all members of their household take the vaccine when it is offered to them. We believe that the benefits of the vaccine far outweigh the risks. Both the Canadian and American Societies of Transplantations recommend COVID-19 vaccines to transplant recipients.

With the lack of data, we currently are unable to recommend one vaccine over another and suggest that recipients accept whichever vaccine is made available to them.

If you have recently received your transplant or been treated for rejection, it is recommended that you wait 4 weeks before receiving your vaccination – any earlier and the vaccine is not effective.

As per provincial guidelines, transplant patients can receive their second dose within manufacture guidelines (3 weeks for Pfizer and 28 days for Moderna). Please inform the vaccination centre when rebooking that you are a transplant recipient.

For further information about COVID-19 vaccinations for our transplant recipients, please refer to the FAQ provided.

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