As a transplant team, we continue to monitor information about the COVID-19 vaccine and its safety and effectiveness in transplant patients. This includes transplant patients who are followed at IU Health University Hospital, Methodist Hospital and Riley Hospital for Children. Based on information currently available, we recommend:

- Patients ages 18 and over – Receive the Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccine when patient becomes eligible
- Patients 16 or 17 years old – Receive the Pfizer vaccine when patient becomes eligible

According to the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH), Hoosiers who are at high risk for severe COVID-19 illness due to underlying medical conditions, including post-solid organ transplants, are now eligible to receive the vaccine. IU Health has provided contact information for transplant patients ages 16 – 59 who are 3 or more months post transplant to the IDOH. A link unique only to the transplant patient will be sent by the IDOH via text, cell phone and/or letter that can only be used once to sign up for a vaccine appointment. Patients who are 16 and 17 years old will need to sign up for sites administering the Pfizer vaccine, and that information is available for each site when scheduling. If there are any concerns with a recent post-transplant patient receiving the vaccine, the patient will be notified by the transplant team.

Each state is allowed to define their own vaccination priority plan. Visit ourshot.in.gov for the latest on Indiana’s plan.

Below are the vaccination recommendations for our transplant patients, living donors and families of transplant recipients.

**Pre-transplant patients** (in referral, evaluation or listed for transplant)
- Vaccinate pre-transplant as soon as the vaccine is available to you
- If scheduled for living donor transplant, recipients should not receive the vaccine less than 2 weeks before the scheduled transplant date
- Patient to inform pre-transplant coordinator after receiving final dose of vaccine (type and dates)

**Post-transplant patients**
- Vaccinate when the vaccine is available to you
- If less than 3 months from your transplant date, your transplant team will discuss timing with you
- Patient to inform post-transplant coordinator after receiving final dose of vaccine (type and dates)

**Patients in evaluation to be living donors and those approved to be living donors**
- Vaccinate pre-donation as soon as the vaccine is available to the general public
- If scheduled for donation we prefer you either complete both doses before donation or wait until after donation to start the vaccine process
- Patient to inform living donor coordinator after receiving final dose of vaccine (type and dates)

**Living Donors who have already donated**
- While we recommend the vaccine once it is available to the general public, you should discuss this with your primary care physician
Family Members

- Family members of pre- and post-transplant patients should receive the vaccine as soon as the vaccine is available to general population

Additionally, transplant recipients will have an opportunity to participate in a national research study to gain more information of how well transplant recipients develop the desired antibody levels in response to receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. The study does not provide the vaccine and study team members will not offer guidance on whether you should receive the vaccine or not. If you will be receiving the vaccine and are interested in the study, they will collect a blood sample before vaccination, and collect samples at time points after each vaccination injection. If you are interested in participating in this research, visit transplantvaccine.org to register. Direct all questions about the research study to covidvaccine@jhmi.edu. Please do not call your transplant coordinator about the study.

Please remember that vaccine information is changing daily. We are monitoring this and revising our plans as new information becomes available. We will update iuhealth.org/transplant and facebook.com/iuhealthtransplant as we have more information about the vaccine availability for our patients. COVID-19 vaccine information is also available

In the meantime, it is critical that you continue to practice the same safety measures that are currently recommended: wearing a mask, social distancing, good hand-washing and avoiding crowds or contact with people who are ill or may have been exposed to COVID-19.

We currently advise all transplant patients to:

- Maintain a minimum two week supply of all medication, keeping in mind any dosage changes
- Contact your transplant coordinator if experiencing a cough or fever prior to any visit to the hospital for clinic, labs or rehab
- Refer to the IU Health Coronavirus (COVID-19) Resource Center for the latest resources and information about COVID-19 at https://iuhealth.org/covid19
- Use the IU Health Virtual Clinic for free screening/triage for COVID-19 for anyone in Indiana. Learn more about this resource at https://iuhealth.org/covid19