



# Indiana University Health

## Transplant

### **COVID-19 VACCINE Update for Transplant Patients August 16, 2021**

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.

#### **Additional Vaccine Dose for Post-Transplant Patients**

Federal health agencies have approved an additional dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines for immunocompromised individuals who have previously received two doses of these vaccines. This includes solid-organ transplant recipients age 12 and over. Recommendations for those who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine are expected soon.

The IU Health Transplant team recommends all **post**-transplant patients who are more than 3 months after transplant and at least 28 days since the second dose of either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine receive a third dose as follows:

- If you received two doses of the Pfizer vaccine, get a third dose of the Pfizer vaccine. If it is not available, the Moderna vaccine is acceptable for age 18 and older. Only the Pfizer vaccine is approved for ages 12-17.
- If you received two doses of the Moderna vaccine, get a third dose of the Moderna vaccine. If it is not available, the Pfizer vaccine is acceptable.
- If you have been treated for rejection in the past month, please check with your transplant team regarding timing of the third dose.
- Post-vaccine antibody testing is not recommended.
- If you received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, please check [iuhealth.org/transplant](https://www.iuhealth.org/transplant), [facebook.com/iuhtransplant](https://www.facebook.com/iuhtransplant) or with your health care provider for recommendations as more information becomes available.

To get a third dose, go to your local vaccine site, including primary care physician office, walk-in clinic or pharmacy. Vaccines are not available at IU Health Transplant clinics.

Please notify your transplant coordinator with the brand of the third dose of your COVID-19 vaccine and the date received. Patients who have not received the initial COVID-19 vaccination are encouraged to do so immediately and notify the transplant team.

#### **Recommendations for All Transplant Patients**

- All transplant patients and household members age 12 and older should receive the COVID-19 vaccine. We strongly believe the benefit of vaccination outweighs any risks of receiving a vaccine.

- To schedule your free vaccine, contact your local health department or vaccine site, including primary care physician office, walk-in clinic or pharmacy. Vaccines are not available at IU Health Transplant clinics.
- Post-vaccine antibody testing is not recommended.
- Transplant recipients should continue wearing a mask while in public and around people who have not been vaccinated, even if you have been vaccinated. Also, avoid people who have not been vaccinated and do not have them in your home if possible.
- Both pre and post-transplant patients should continue to practice good hand hygiene, social distancing and avoiding crowds.
- If you have had a lung transplant and you develop any “cold-like” symptoms, notify your transplant coordinator.
- 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 at <https://iuhealth.org/covid19> for the latest resources and information about COVID-19, including free COVID-19 screenings for individuals in Indiana
- Refer to list of Frequently Asked Questions for Transplant Recipients and Candidates from the American Society of Transplantation at <https://www.myast.org/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-frequently-asked-questions>

In summary, 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 immediately if age 12 and older
- 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 second\* dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine (type and dates). \*If received Johnson & Johnson vaccine, inform coordinator after the single dose

#### **Post-transplant patients**

- Vaccinate immediately if age 12 and older
- 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 second\* and third dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine (type and dates). \*If received Johnson & Johnson vaccine, inform coordinator after the single dose

#### **Patients in evaluation to be living donors and those approved to be living donors**

- Vaccinate pre-donation
- If scheduled for donation, we prefer you are either fully vaccinated before donation or wait until after donation to start the vaccine process
- Patient to inform living donor coordinator after receiving second\* dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine (type and dates). \*If received Johnson & Johnson vaccine, inform coordinator after the single dose

## **Living Donors who have already donated**

- While we recommend the vaccine, you should discuss this with your primary care physician

## **Household Members**

- Vaccinate immediately if age 12 and older. This is especially important for anyone in the household of a transplant recipient

We will update [iuhealth.org/transplant](http://iuhealth.org/transplant) and [facebook.com/iuhtransplant](https://facebook.com/iuhtransplant) as we have more information or recommendations for our patients.

## **National Research Study**

Transplant recipients 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](http://transplantvaccine.org) to register. Direct all questions about the study to [covidvaccine@jhmi.edu](mailto:covidvaccine@jhmi.edu). Please do not call your transplant coordinator about the research study.