

October 4, 2021

Dear Patient,

We are writing to inform you of a new vaccine requirement for all patients currently on the Emory Transplant Center kidney and/or pancreas waiting list and all patients currently undergoing evaluation for a kidney and/or pancreas transplant.

- 1. As of December 1, 2021, all kidney and pancreas transplant candidates currently listed will be required to have completed a vaccination series against COVID-19 defined as either both doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech or the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine or a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson's Janssen (J&J/Janssen) COVID-19 Vaccine.**
- 2. Candidates who are not vaccinated will not be transplanted at the Emory Transplant Center.**
- 3. All candidates for kidney and pancreas transplantation who are undergoing transplant evaluation will also be required to be vaccinated before they can be placed on the transplant waiting list.**
- 4. We strongly encourage all household members of the candidate to complete vaccination against COVID-19 to protect the patient prior to and after transplant.**

This policy is consistent with that of many other local, regional and national transplant centers. Furthermore, the American Society of Transplantation recommends the development of institutional policies regarding pre-transplant vaccination to optimize a patient's chances of being safely transplanted.

It is also important to know that vaccination against COVID-19 is most effective against preventing hospitalization and death when it is received before transplantation (and starting immune suppressing medications) compared to receiving the vaccine after transplant.

During this process, you may be required to show your vaccination card.

*See reverse.*

Please note that COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for all people aged 12 years and older in the United States for the prevention of COVID-19. However, the age groups approved vary by vaccine product:

- Pfizer-BioNTech: persons aged  $\geq 12$  years
- Moderna: persons aged  $\geq 18$  years
- J&J/Janssen: persons aged  $\geq 18$  years

Other important considerations for COVID-19 vaccination are summarized at the CDC and FDA's websites (reference links below).

We strongly believe in the safety and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccines, and the scientific rigor that led to their development. Please know that we make this decision thoughtfully and that we believe this is the best medical advice we can offer given the state of the pandemic and the risks of COVID-19 after transplantation. We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to working with you on your journey toward transplantation. Please visit our website for further reference material and, if you have any questions please contact us directly at 855-EMORY-TX (855-366-7989).

Sincerely,



Thomas C. Pearson MD, DPhil



Stephen O. Pastan MD

- [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html)
- [www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-first-covid-19-vaccine](http://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-first-covid-19-vaccine)
- [www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/moderna-covid-19-vaccine](http://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/moderna-covid-19-vaccine)

