

**Update to University of Michigan Health Transplant Center  
COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement for Transplant Candidates**

The vaccines developed against COVID-19 have worked remarkably well in preventing hospitalization, critical illness, and death from COVID-19 infection. People who receive a kidney, pancreas, liver, lung, or heart transplant face an increased risk of hospitalization and death from COVID-19 infection. The U-M Health Transplant Center wants to keep you as safe as possible from illness during the vulnerable period after transplantation.

The U-M Health Transplant Center policy regarding regarding COVID-19 vaccination is as follows:

- Potential heart, liver, kidney, and pancreas recipients are **encouaged but not required to be up to date on COVID-19 vaccination.**
- Patients with severe lung disease continue to face increased risk of severe disease and decline in lung function after COVID-19 infection. Therefore, unvaccinated lung transplant candidates **will undergo an evaluation for immunity to COVID-19 and for those without evidence of previous infection vaccination will be required.**

Vaccination remains a critical tool to protect vulnerable patients with organ failure or immunosuppression from infectious disease. The U-M Health Transplant Center strongly urges all transplant recipients and those seeking transplants to remain up to date on COVID-19 and all other recommended vaccines. Please ask your health care provider if you have specific questions regarding immunizations. Updated information is at the following links:

*CDC recommendations of COVID-19 vaccination*

<https://www.cdc.gov/covid/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>

*CDC general vaccine information and recommendations for adults*

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines-adults/recommended-vaccines/index.html>