

**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. For those reasons, the U-M Health Transplant Center required COVID-19 vaccination prior to wait-listing for organ transplantation.

The current state of the pandemic, however, is different than when we implemented the requirement for vaccination prior to transplantation. The U-M Health Transplant Center will therefore change our requirements for COVID-19 vaccination prior to listing for transplantation.

- Potential heart, liver, kidney, and pancreas recipients will **no longer be required to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination** prior to listing.
- 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/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/index.html>

CDC general vaccine information and recommendations for adults

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