



Last updated: July 13, 2021

Dear Valued Patient,

Following the recent release of CDC guidance advising that fully vaccinated individuals no longer need to wear masks or practice social distancing, the UK Transplant center wants to communicate our recommendation as your health care provider:

Based on a statement from the American Society of Transplantation, the UK clinical team recommends that patients continue to wear masks and socially distance while indoors and outdoors if in a crowded area. It is important to remember there is a small chance all individuals can still contract COVID-19 despite being vaccinated. While immunocompromised patients do receive significant protection from the vaccine, the antibody response is lower than non-immunocompromised individuals. This could mean you are more likely to contract the virus if exposed.

We continue to **strongly** recommend that all transplant patients, pre- and post-transplant, receive the COVID-19 vaccine. When vaccinated, you will be less likely to get sick with COVID, and if you do get sick, it may be a less severe form of illness. As a transplant patient, you are more likely to suffer serious illness or death from COVID compared with the general public, so getting vaccinated has added benefits for you.

A note on whether you are immunocompromised: If you are post-transplant, you are immunocompromised because of the medications you take to prevent rejection of the transplanted organ. If you have not yet had a transplant, you have end-stage organ disease. Part of your disease process (regardless of organ) is a decline in your immune system. This is why our recommendations are for ALL patients followed by UK Transplant.

Please contact your nurse coordinator if you have any questions regarding these recommendations. Thank you for allowing us to be your partner in transplant care.

Sincerely,

University of Kentucky Transplant Center

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