

### COVID Vaccine FAQs for Transplant Patients

**Is the vaccine safe for transplant patients?** Weighing the risks and benefits of getting vaccinated is important. Our transplant team experts feel that the benefit of getting this vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna ONLY) is far more important than any potential risk. Transplant patients can have worse outcomes if they do get COVID-19 because of a lowered immune system. There may be a concern that vaccines can trigger rejection. Experts feel that based on how the COVID-19 vaccine works they are unlikely cause rejection and this has not been supported with any data.

**Do I get priority because I'm a transplant patient?** The CDC advice panel made the recommendation that high-risk health care workers will be first to get the vaccine. Nursing home residents and staff will also get first priority. It is still too early to tell where transplant patients will fall in the priority list.

**Should my caregiver get the vaccine?** Yes. It is especially important for your caregivers and household members to get vaccinated to protect you.

**When should I get the vaccine?** Based on previous vaccination guidelines for transplant recipients, it is recommended that all transplant candidates and household members get the vaccination when it becomes available to them.

**If I haven't had a transplant yet, will I be required to get the vaccine?** The transplant teams have not made a final decision around this yet. We would not be able to require this until the vaccine is widely available in the community.

**Where can I get the vaccine?** Look for information coming out in your community once the vaccine is available. It's too early for us to know if you will need to go to your PCP's office, the county health department, or a pharmacy for this vaccine. We do not know if it will be available to you through OHSU. When OHSU receives the vaccine, they will post an update on our coronavirus website (<https://www.ohsu.edu/health/coronavirus-resource>). OHSU will also post an update when criteria for distributing the vaccine become available.

**Clinical Trials:** You may or may not qualify for a clinical trial for the vaccine because of your medical conditions or medications. Remember that if you are in a trial, you may be receiving a placebo vaccine and not the actual COVID-19 vaccine.

**The OHSU Trial:** OHSU is the only place in Oregon involved in the Phase 3 clinical trial for the Oxford University/AstraZeneca vaccine. This is open to adults in the greater Portland area who meet the criteria. For more information, you can go to [www.c19vaccinestudy.com](http://www.c19vaccinestudy.com) or call them at 888-822-7839.

**How do I learn more?** Go to the CDC website <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/8-things.html>

Go to the OHSU site <https://www.ohsu.edu/health/coronavirus-resource>

American Society of Transplantation Vaccine FAQ:

[https://www.myast.org/sites/default/files/2020%2012%2008%20COVID19%20VACCINE%20FAQS\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.myast.org/sites/default/files/2020%2012%2008%20COVID19%20VACCINE%20FAQS_FINAL.pdf)

