

December 15, 2020

With the distribution of COVID vaccines beginning, we believe transplant recipients should be encouraged to get the vaccine, consistent with the recommendations of the American Society of Transplantation, the American Society of Transplant Surgeons and the United Network of Organ Sharing. The risk of a COVID infection in the transplant recipient population is significant with [Cravedi et al](#) reporting a 32% mortality rate for hospitalized transplant recipients in a recently published 12 center study.

We also want to encourage transplant centers to support the enrollment of transplant recipients, receiving the vaccine, in the multi-center research study organized by the Hopkins research team to better understand the impact of the vaccine on transplant recipients. The study web page, which includes patient enrollment, is linked [here](#). The more recipients that we are able to enroll this study, the more information we will be able to quickly provide to the transplant community.

Also [linked here](#) is a list of frequently asked questions about the COVID vaccine for transplant patients along with additional information on the Hopkins study.

Sincerely,

**Dr. David Serur**

NKR Medical Director, Professor, Dept of Internal Medicine, Hackensack School of Medicine

**Dr. Matthew Cooper**

NKR Surgical Director & Director of Kidney Transplant, MedStar Georgetown Transplant Institute. Professor of Surgery, Georgetown School of Medicine.

**Dr. Robert Montgomery**

Chair, Department of Surgery and Director, NYU Langone Transplant Institute Professor of Surgery.

**Dr. Didier Mandelbrot**

Medical Director of Kidney and Pancreas Transplantation University of Madison, WI

**Dr. Dorry Segev**

Associate Vice Chair for Research and Professor of Surgery, Johns Hopkins University.

**Dr. Christina Klein,**

Medical Director, Kidney and Pancreas Transplant, Piedmont Transplant Institute

**Dr. Raja Kandaswamy**

Director of Kidney and Pancreas Transplantation. Professor, Department of Surgery, University of Minnesota.

**Dr. Sandip Kapur**

Chief of Transplantation, New York Presbyterian Hospital, Professor of Surgery Cornell University

**Dr. Mike Cecka,**

NKR Lab Director & Professor Emeritus at UCLA Immunogenetics Center. Director Hawaii Cellular Therapy and Transplant Laboratory.

**Dr. Mikel Prieto,**

Surgical Director of the Kidney & Pancreas Transplant Program, Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota

**Dr. Jeff Veale,**

Director Donor Exchange Program & Surgeon UCLA, Professor, David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA

**Dr. Peter Kennealey,**

Surgical Director of Kidney and Pancreas Transplantation, Associate Professor of Surgery, University of Colorado

**Dr. Christian Kuhr**

Director of Kidney/Pancreas Transplantation, Virginia Mason Medical Center