

# Coronavirus: COVID-19

## Information for transplant professionals

### 16th Edition, 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020

This document provides information about COVID-19 for transplant professionals and links to the latest information and resources from the NHS, Government and professional societies.

#### LATEST NEWS

Access NHSBT at <https://www.odt.nhs.uk/deceased-donation/covid-19-advice-for-clinicians/> for

- **New guidance**
  - SARS-CoV-2 assessment and screening in organ donors and recipients at <https://nhsbtdeb.blob.core.windows.net/umbraco-assets-corp/20151/pol304.pdf>
- **Updated guidance**
  - Reopening transplant centres
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> surge planning
- **Covid Transplant Registry:** reporting incidences and COVID cases map
- **Weekly COVID-19 Bulletins**
- Daily donor and transplant report
- Transplant centre closures and restrictions
- Living and deceased donation guidance and survey of living donors
- COVID-19 sampling videos

Access BTS at <https://bts.org.uk/information-resources/covid-19-information/> for latest

- Guidance on recipient and living donor consent in the context of COVID-19 (updated 14<sup>th</sup> August 2020)\*
- Guidance on management of transplant recipients with COVID-19 (updated 21<sup>st</sup> October 2020)\*
- Resources for transplant trainees during COVID-19
- Webinars related to COVID-19
- Access to Transplant Library for emerging evidence in COVID-19\*
- COVID-19 related studies in progress

\* full links included below

#### Recent publications (also access Transplant Library as above):

1. Results from the ERA-EDTA Registry indicate a high mortality due to COVID-19 in dialysis patients and kidney transplant recipients across Europe: [10.1016/j.kint.2020.09.006](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.kint.2020.09.006)
2. COVID-19 Outcomes in Patients Waitlisted for Kidney Transplantation and Kidney Transplant Recipients. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ajt.16351>
3. COVID-19 infections in kidney transplant recipients at the epicenter of pandemics
4. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.kint.2020.10.004>

5. SARS-CoV-2 infection and early mortality of wait-listed and solid organ transplant recipients in England: a national cohort study, Ravanan R.; Callaghan C.; July 2020 at <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/ajt.16247>

## STANDING ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

1. **NHSBT/BTS** Guidance on recipient and living donor consent in the context of COVID-19 <https://bts.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/NHSBT-BTS-Consent-guidance-COVID-19-Version-4-updated-13th-August-FINAL.pdf>
2. **RA/BTS** Guidance on the management of transplant recipients with COVID-19 <https://bts.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Clinical-21st-October.pdf>
3. **BTS/Herrick Society** Resources for transplant trainees <https://bts.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Transplant-trainees-advice.v2.pdf>
4. **NICE COVID 19 rapid guidelines:**  
**Arranging planned care in hospitals and diagnostic services at** <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng179> (published 27<sup>th</sup> July)  
**Renal transplantation at** <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/NG178> (updated August 2020)
5. **Government** latest information on COVID-19 <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>
6. **Government** advice for health professionals <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>
7. **BTS/CET-Transplant Library** (open access): Emerging evidence on Covid 19 in solid organ donation and transplantation at <https://bts.org.uk/information-resources/covid-19-information/>
8. **Human Tissue Authority (HTA)**
  - Guidance for transplant centres considering using different premises at <https://www.hta.gov.uk/policies/guidance-transplant-centres-considering-using-different-premises>.
  - Guidance on consent requirements for living donation in the context of COVID-19
    - For Independent Assessors: <https://www.hta.gov.uk/independent-assessors>
    - For Living Donor Coordinators: <https://www.hta.gov.uk/living-donor-coordinators>
9. **Covid Symptom Tracker App** at <https://covid.joinzoe.com>
- 10.

## RECIPIENTS OF SOLID ORGAN TRANSPLANTS

There is limited data on patients with COVID-19 to draw a firm conclusion on the effects of immunosuppression but solid organ transplant recipients are likely to be at greater risk.

Transplant patients are advised to [follow national advice](#)

If patients suspect that they may have COVID-19, they should contact NHS 111.

<https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19>

- Patients who have symptoms or contact with COVID-19 patients are advised not to attend their GP, Emergency Department or transplant unit, as this increases the risk of spreading the virus further and putting other patients and staff at risk
- If a patient is diagnosed with COVID-19, it is recommended that the patient inform their transplant unit and they be monitored remotely during self-isolation. Any deterioration in condition should be referred back through NHS 111 for further evaluation
- Patients must be reminded not to stop their immunosuppression in the event of infection, unless recommended to do so by a transplant professional

- Patients returning from overseas must be managed in line with national advice, as above.

### Patients diagnosed with or suspected of having COVID-19

Recommended management in line with [above guidance](#) insert new link here

- Must be reported to NHS BT [here](#) to ensure that they are captured in the COVID Registry

### REDUCING THE RISK TO PATIENTS

National guidance on [general hygiene](#) and use of [personal protection equipment \(PPE\)](#) must be followed at all times

The advice includes, regular handwashing, alcohol gel use, avoidance of touching your face and maintaining a personal distance at all times.

- Patients must avoid contact with other people who are unwell
- Trusts are advised to avoid placing patients with respiratory symptoms in similar clinical areas to transplant recipients
- Transplant recipients should be encouraged to follow the [national guidance on shielding](#) and to discuss their individual situation with the clinical team if they need further advice
- Comparable guidance is available for each of the other UK countries at the following links
  - Scotland latest advice [here](#)
  - Wales latest advice [here](#)
  - Northern Ireland latest advice [here](#)
- Specific advice for children and young people [here](#) This link is now <https://renal.org/health-professionals/covid-19>
- Levels of immunosuppression should be reviewed but generalised immunosuppression reduction that may jeopardise organ function is not recommended
- Transplant units are advised to consider ways to limit hospital attendances for patients, such as:
  - rescheduling non urgent out-patient appointments
  - virtual or telemedicine appointments
  - home delivery of immunosuppression

### ORGAN DONORS

- For latest guidance related to both living and deceased donation, refer to the information and guidance at <https://www.odt.nhs.uk/deceased-donation/covid-19-advice-for-clinicians/>
- Potential living donors must be assessed in line with GOV.UK and NHS BT policy to evaluate their risk of having COVID-19 – [refer to guidance on consent](#) change to: <https://nhsbtde.blob.core.windows.net/umbraco-assets-corp/20151/pol304.pdf>

### ACUTE TRANSPLANTATION

There is no evidence-based guidance on the risk of acute transplantation during a viral outbreak.

- Transplant units need to be aware that public health measures and availability of critical care beds may pose restrictions on their ability to undertake organ transplants
- Recipients with active COVID-19 or recovering from an acute COVID-19 infection should not undergo transplantation
- The decision to undertake transplantation during the outbreak will need to be made on a case by case basis where the risk of infection at a time of peak immunosuppression must be balanced against the risk of organ failure or treatment of organ failure

- Patients for transplantation must be counselled about the risks and benefits of each option – [guidance on consent](#) This link needs to be the one to 14<sup>th</sup> August version on our website
- In the event of more widespread infection or reduced availability of resources for the care of recipients and/or living donors, a temporary suspension of acute transplant activities may be necessary.

#### **REDUCING THE RISK TO STAFF**

Staff are advised to follow latest advice and guidance and the recommended sources of NHS and Govt. information (above) to protect themselves and patients under their care.

#### **Links to useful sources of information for recipients of solid organ transplants:**

[Renal association](#)

[Kidney Care UK](#)

[Pregnancy and renal disease](#)

[British Liver Trust](#)

[British Association for the Study of the Liver](#)

[European Association for the Study of the Liver](#)

[International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation](#)

[BTS/Transplant Library emerging evidence on COVID 19](#)

Information correct as of **23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020**. Please refer to the BTS website at [www.bts.org.uk](http://www.bts.org.uk) to ensure that you are using the latest update of this information