



British Transplantation Society

Position Statement on Vaccination against COVID-19 in Solid Organ and Islet Transplant Recipients (adults, children and young people)

16th April 2021

The British Transplantation Society (BTS) supports vaccination against COVID-19 in solid organ and islet transplant recipients and patients who are listed for transplantation on the UK transplant list.

Whilst transplant recipients were not included in clinical trials, given experience with other vaccinations, there is no evidence to suggest that vaccination against COVID-19, in line with latest advice and guidance, would not be safe and protective in this group of patients. In the absence of any other health contra-indication, it is recommended that suitable recipients accept the offer of vaccination and vaccine type in accordance with latest Government advice.

Solid organ transplant recipients are designated as extremely clinically vulnerable. Prioritisation for vaccination, including vaccination prior to immunosuppressive treatment, is made according to the advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). JCVI advice for extremely clinically vulnerable adults (aged 16 years and above) is that all age groups are offered the vaccine at the same time as people aged 70-74 years of age.

There is insufficient evidence to advise routine COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy and breast-feeding but, individual risk versus benefit assessment for vaccination is recommended for all women who are pregnant or breast-feeding if designated as clinically extremely vulnerable. Similar risk assessment is advised in children and young people under 16 years of age according to their risk of exposure and serious outcome from COVID-19.

There are legitimate concerns about the response to the vaccine in immunosuppressed or immunocompromised patients but, in common with other vaccinations programmes, this is being carefully monitored in solid organ and islet transplant recipients to understand how efficient the vaccination is in this group of people. Transplant recipients and their close contacts must continue to follow government advice, to reduce the risk of infection, even when vaccinated. From 31st March 2021, JCVI also recommends that adult household contacts of severely immunosuppressed patients are offered COVID-19 vaccination alongside priority group 6 (all individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality).

Access Further Advice and Guidance

Medicines and Health Products Regulatory Authority (MHRA) [here](#).

Government and JCVI [here](#).

NHS Blood and Transplant and British Transplantation Society for clinicians and patients [here](#) and [here](#)

This position statement will be reviewed and updated as new advice and guidance becomes available.