



# TSANZ

The Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand

## Updated TSANZ COVID-19 Vaccination recommendations for Transplant Recipients

This statement has been developed by the TSANZ, the peak representative body of transplantation professionals in Australia and New Zealand as a guide for transplant recipients following statements from the [Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation](#) (ATAGI) and the [New Zealand Ministry of Health](#) on COVID-19 vaccination.

TSANZ recommends that all transplant patients > 18 years of age be advised to undergo a **primary course of 3 COVID vaccinations** with a **booster 4 months after the third vaccination**, as per ATAGI and the NZ Ministry of Health.

- Additionally transplant patients should be advised that:
  - COVID vaccination may not always prevent infection, but is likely to reduce the severity and mortality of infection as well as reducing the chance of spreading to others
  - A transplant recipient who does develop COVID should notify **their transplant specialist/team promptly** as they are at higher risk of morbidity and mortality. They may also be eligible for additional therapies, including monoclonal antibodies/anti-viral therapies against SARS-CoV2, that may improve their outcomes
  - Vaccinating eligible household members and close contacts of transplant recipients (ring vaccination) is a sensible strategy to reduce the risk of infection for the transplant recipient
  - We also continue to strongly recommend use of public health measures including hand washing, mask wearing and physical distancing.

If you have a specific question or concern regarding COVID vaccination, we suggest that you contact your own specialist or transplant unit for advice, because local conditions and advice vary across Australia and New Zealand. This advice will be updated as more information becomes available.

The Australian Transplantation and Donation Rapid Response Taskforce meet on a monthly basis and provide regular updates that are available on the TSANZ [website](#).