



TSANZ

The Transplantation Society of Australia and New Zealand

Position Statement

Organ Donor Recipients and Vaccination against COVID-19

This statement has been developed by the TSANZ, the peak representative body of transplantation professionals in Australia and New Zealand as a guide for COVID-19 vaccination in transplant recipients and immunocompromised patients following general advice based on current evidence, and will be updated as additional data becomes available.

In regards to organ donor recipients and vaccination against COVID-19, the TSANZ has the position that every transplant decision made by Transplant Units involves thorough consideration of all medical factors relevant to each individual case. During the COVID pandemic, the number of infections in the local and hospital environment and the vaccination status of potential recipients are included in this assessment. Where the risk of COVID infection in the early post-transplant period is deemed to represent an unacceptably high risk, organ transplantation may not proceed.

Vaccination is an important strategy to help reduce the risk of developing infectious diseases, including COVID-19, caused by infection with the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus. TSANZ continues to support and advocate for vaccination access for people on dialysis (or with end stage organ disease), prospective living donors, waitlisted patients, transplant recipients and people living with recipients to provide “ring” vaccination. TSANZ also supports the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation’s (ATAGI) and the New Zealand Ministry of Health’s recommendation of a 3rd dose of COVID-19 vaccine as part of the primary course in individuals who are severely immunocompromised.

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.

For regular COVID-19 updates relating to transplantation, please see information on our [website](#).