



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

**18<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

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

Whilst solid organ transplant recipients were not included in clinical trials, given experience with other vaccinations, there is no evidence to suggest that any of the available vaccinations for COVID-19 would not be safe and protective in this group of patients.

Currently, there are no data available to understand the impact of different COVID-19 vaccinations on transmission of the virus or indirect protection (vaccination of others). Therefore, in the absence of any other health contra-indication, it is recommended that suitable recipients receive any of the approved vaccines when one is offered to them. Invitation to attend for vaccination may come via GP practices or from hospitals and all patients may expect to receive their invitation by January/February 2021.

There are legitimate concerns about the response to the vaccine in immunosuppressed or immunocompromised patients but, in common with other vaccinations programmes, this will be carefully monitored in solid organ transplant recipients through existing COVID-19 registries to understand how effective the vaccination is in this group of people. In view of this, solid organ transplant recipients and their close contacts must continue to follow government advice to reduce the risk of infection, even when vaccinated.

Prioritisation for vaccination is made according to the advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). Latest advice can be found [HERE](#)

Solid organ transplant recipients are designated as extremely clinically vulnerable. The advice for this group is that people of all ages should be offered the vaccine at the same time as people aged 70-74 years of age, with the exception of pregnant women with heart disease and children under 16 years of age, unless such children are at high risk of exposure and serious outcomes. In these cases, an individual risk versus benefits of vaccination is recommended. Vaccination in pregnancy is currently not recommended.

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