

October 19, 2021

To Patients on an LHSC Organ Transplant Waiting List:

You are receiving this letter because you are currently listed for an organ transplant at LHSC.

As you know, COVID-19 is currently a major public health problem. Transplant patients are at a higher risk than the general public of becoming very ill or dying from COVID-19 if they become infected. After transplant, transplant patients have a much lower response to the COVID-19 vaccine than the general public because of the anti-rejection drugs. Therefore, it is very important for your health and the best chance for success after transplant that you get your vaccine **before** your transplant.

The COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective. It has been given to millions of people including those waiting for transplants.

For these reasons, the Multi Organ Transplant Program at LHSC has a procedure requiring patients to have at least two doses of a Health Canada approved vaccine before they are active on the transplant waiting list. You will be asked for proof of vaccine – a copy of your vaccine receipt can be emailed to your Transplant Team at motslhsc@lhsc.on.ca. If you are not vaccinated, you will be placed on hold until one week after your second dose.

Every patient case is unique and we know that there may be situations where you are not able to get the vaccine. These include medical exemptions, the need for urgent transplant or other specific situations. Exemptions to this are the same as those recommended by the Ontario Ministry of Health and will be considered on a case by case basis and must be approved by your Transplant Team. If you think that you qualify for an exemption, you need to discuss this with your Transplant Team.

We have included an updated information sheet for you on the COVID-19 vaccine.

This policy will be effective as of November 1, 2021.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to talk to your Transplant Team.

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