



TGLN Statement Regarding Transplant and Vaccination for COVID-19

September 16, 2022

Donated organs are scarce and publicly entrusted gifts. Transplant recipients must follow many specialized recommendations for medications and vaccinations that reduce the risk of harm from infection after transplant. These are determined by experts in each Ontario transplant centre based on internationally accepted guidance for safe transplant. Recommendations are carefully assessed for each potential recipient and vary, for example, based on the anticipated degree of immunosuppression.

With regards to COVID-19 vaccination, Ontario Health (Trillium Gift of Life Network) supports each transplant centre in making recommendations for transplant on a case-by-case basis, considering medical urgency and an evaluation of risks to the patient in the context of their particular organ transplant. This guidance was developed in consultation with a variety of experts, including those specializing in infectious diseases and bioethics.

It is strongly recommended that potential transplant recipients be vaccinated and informed about the risks of COVID-19 and the benefits of vaccination. Scientific data indicate that the risk of being hospitalized with severe COVID-19 is several folds greater and the risk of death two to five times greater in transplant patients than in the general population.

Ontario Health (Trillium Gift of Life Network) is the Government of Ontario agency responsible for planning, promoting, coordinating and supporting organ and tissue donation and transplantation across the province and for continually improving the system so that more lives can be saved.