

While masking and physical distancing reduce the risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2, and new preventative therapies are becoming available, the rate of COVID-19 transmission remains high in the Intermountain West. Vaccination continues to provide the highest level of protection against infection, illness, and transmission for post-transplant recipients.

If you haven't yet been vaccinated, or received all the recommended doses, it is still important for you, and your family, to receive the vaccine to prevent and reduce the chance of serious COVID-19 disease.

Unfortunately, the death rate among transplanted patients who are infected with COVID-19 and require hospitalization remains between 10% and 30%. Transplant patients with COVID-19 are also at high risk of developing complications such as organ failure and rejection, leading to loss of the transplanted organ, long-COVID symptoms, in addition to other well-known complications of COVID-19.

The strongest level of protection against COVID-19 for **post-transplant recipients** continues to be 4 doses of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (3 initial series doses + 1 booster dose) as [recommended by CDC](#). You can receive the vaccine at a [U of U Health vaccine clinic](#) or choose to get your COVID-19 vaccine from any other authorized vaccine providers within your state at [VaccineFinder.org](#).

In addition to the vaccine there are new preventative medications now available to transplant recipients and those at highest risk of COVID-19. Evusheld is the name of one of medications just authorized by the FDA for emergency use in high risk patients for prevention of COVID prior to exposure to the disease.

All post-transplant recipients are considered high risk for developing COVID-19 and are now eligible to receive Evusheld. Evusheld is not considered a replacement for the COVID-19 vaccine but rather an additional therapy to reduce the risk of becoming seriously ill or dying from COVID-19 related disease.

The current University of Utah Health Transplant recommendation is to complete the full COVID-19 vaccine series and coordinate the Evusheld treatment before or after the 4th COVID-19 vaccine booster dose. Please do not delay getting your vaccine. Schedule if you have not yet received all 4 doses. Evusheld can be given 2 weeks after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine; the COVID-19 vaccine should be delayed at least 30 days after receiving Evusheld.

Please contact your Transplant team, or the Transplant Service Line @ (800) 824-2073 with any questions about your treatment of COVID-19 and your transplant.

We appreciate you choosing the University of Utah Health for your transplant care and will continue to update you with best possible prevention and treatment options for COVID-19 as they become available.