

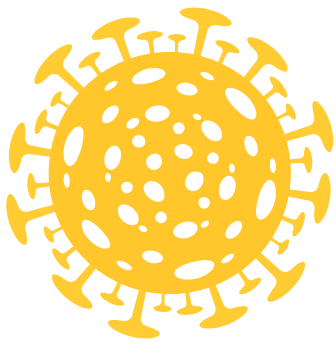
Commonly Asked Questions About The COVID-19 Vaccine for Kidney Transplant Patients



NYP-WCM transplant is following the guidelines provided by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and The NY State for Vaccine administration. NY residents can check their vaccine eligibility status at: **[Covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov](https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov)** NJ residents can pre-register for the vaccine by visiting: **[Covid19.nj.gov/pages/vaccine](https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/vaccine)** For additional information visit: **VaccineTogetherNY.org** and cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19

How does the vaccine work & what are the side effects?

Vaccines work by assisting your body to make antibodies. Antibodies are proteins that help fight infections from viruses, bacteria, and other germs. The vaccine works by boosting your body's immune response and mild symptoms are common. Common side effects are pain at the injection site, feeling tired, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, and mild fever. Side effects are a normal response when making antibodies and it is not a sign of infection. If you experience any difficulty breathing or show signs of an allergic reaction please call 911.

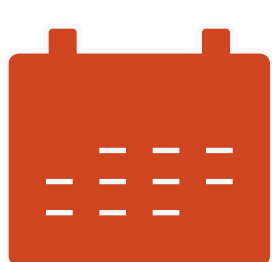


Why should I get the vaccine?

It is suggested that all immunocompromised people, such as transplant recipients, get the COVID vaccine. Although we don't have data on the effects of the vaccine in transplant recipients yet, we believe the benefits of the vaccine outweigh the risks of becoming severely ill from COVID-19.

When should I get the vaccine?

You should be at least 3 months post-transplant before getting the vaccine. Patients scheduled for a transplant should get their first vaccine dose at least 6-8 weeks prior to their scheduled transplant, so that both doses can be administered prior to transplant. Transplant recipients who have concerns about getting the vaccine are encouraged to speak to their healthcare provider about the vaccine.



Which vaccine & how many doses do I need?

Only the mRNA based vaccines created by Pfizer and Moderna have been suggested for immunocompromised patients at this time. The vaccine needs to be administered in **two doses** and it is important that you get the same vaccine for both doses. For example, if you get the Moderna vaccine for your first dose, you must get the Moderna vaccine for your second dose. Do not get one of each.

What about my family members?

It is recommended that members of the transplant recipients' household get vaccinated as well to help protect transplant recipients. It is very important that family members should continue all standard COVID-19 precautions. Remember, you should avoid contact temporarily with anyone who receives a live vaccine since they may be shedding the virus. Please note, mRNA based vaccines are not considered live vaccines.



I've been vaccinated, now what?

Please continue your standard COVID-19 prevention strategies. It is crucial you wear a **mask, social distance, and perform adequate hand hygiene** even once you are vaccinated. It will take time to determine immunity after the vaccine which is why it is important to protect yourself. We ask that you report your vaccination status to your physician and have a followup video or in-person visit **one month** post vaccination to review any side effects and your kidney function.

I had COVID-19. How long after recovery should I wait to get vaccinated?

If you had COVID-19, you may have developed your own antibodies to the virus after the infection. Even if you have antibodies, it is recommended that you receive the vaccine. If you prefer, you may wait up to 90 days prior to receiving the vaccine. While more research is needed, available evidence suggests that reinfection with this virus is rare within 90 days of initial infection.

Have you already been vaccinated? Please report it to NYP/WCM by [clicking here](#)



Weill Cornell Medicine
Kidney & Pancreas
Transplant Program

 **NewYork-Presbyterian**

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