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| **PROTOCOL TITLE:** **COVID-19Immunization Guideline for Pre-Transplant Kidney Pancreas Transplant Candidates** |
| **APPLICABLE FACILITIES:**[ ] EHC [ ] EDH [ ] EHH [ ] EHI [ ] EHN [ ] EJCH [ ] ELTAC [x] ESJH[x] EUH [ ] EUHM [ ] EUHS [ ] EUOSH [ ] EWWH [ ] RJV-ERH [ ] RJV-ESOP [x] TEC/ESA |
| **EFFECTIVE DATE:** 3/24/2023 | **ORIGINATION DATE:** 9/1/2021 |

**CATEGORY:** Diagnostic/Therapeutic/Preventive, Medication Guidelines

**LEVEL:** Independent

**CONTENT:** These guidelines were developed to standardize the use of COVID-19 immunization practices across the Emory Transplant Center and the Emory kidney and pancreas transplant programs.

Background: The Emory Transplant Center has generated the following policy according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended [COVID-19 vaccines](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/index.html) which is consistent with that of many other local, regional and national transplant centers. The American Society of Transplantation recommends the development of institutional policies regarding pre-transplant COVID-19 vaccination as they believe that this is in the best interest of the transplant candidate, optimizing their chances of being safely transplanted, especially at times of greater infection prevalence.

Policy:

1. As of December 1, 2021, all kidney and pancreas transplant candidates currently listed (active and inactive) will be strongly recommended to have completed a vaccination series against COVID-19 defined as either both doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech or the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine, or a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen (J&J/Janssen) COVID-19 Vaccine. All candidates for kidney and pancreas transplantation who are undergoing transplant evaluation will also be strongly recommended to be vaccinated before they can be placed on the transplant waiting list. We strongly encourage all household members of the candidate to complete vaccination against COVID-19.
2. Exceptions to the policy include the following:
	1. Patients with allergic reactions to any component of the vaccine will be referred to Emory Allergy-Immunology COVID Vaccine assessment clinic.
3. COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for all people aged 12 years and older in the United States for the prevention of COVID-19. However, the age groups approved under Biologics License Application or authorized under EUA to receive vaccination vary by vaccine product:
* Pfizer-BioNTech: persons aged ≥12 years
* Moderna: persons aged ≥18 years
* Janssen: persons aged ≥18 years
1. Other important clinical considerations are summarized at the CDC’s website ([link](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html)).

**DEFINITIONS:** N/A

**REFERENCES AND SOURCES OF EVIDENCE:**

* <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html>
* <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-first-covid-19-vaccine>
* <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/moderna-covid-19-vaccine>

**KEY WORDS:** kidney transplant, COVID vaccine