

COVID-19 - National Transplantation and Donation Rapid Response Taskforce Communique No.30 – 17 February 2021

- Transplantation update in Australia:
 - Nationally, the total number of COVID-19 cases since February 2020 is 28,900.
 - There are 14 COVID-19 patients in hospital with there being no patients in ICU.
 - ANZDATA has reported the following COVID-19 cases among dialysis patients and kidney transplant recipients; 34 (26 recoveries): 21 kidney transplant patients (19 recoveries and 2 deaths) and 13 dialysis patients (6 recoveries and 7 deaths).
 - There are no issues with ICU capacity.
- Research and vaccination:
 - Further research is endorsed to be undertaken on the vaccination antibody responses performed in immunocompromised patients.
 - The AstraZenica vaccine has been approved by the Therapeutics Goods Administration.
 - Pfizer vaccine has been approved for those over the age of 18.
 - Information regarding which vaccination will be administered and when is not yet confirmed but logistics are being put in place for the rollout of the vaccination in Australia.
 - Transplant Australia are holding a COVID Vaccine webinar for transplant recipients on Wednesday 17th February 2021 (7.30pm AEDT), with Prof Toby Coates facilitating the discussions and Prof Steve Chadban and Dr Peter Boan as guest speakers. You can register on the Transplant Australia [website](#). The webinar aims to assist with any questions that patients may have around COVID vaccination.
- Data:
 - Current COVID-19 epidemiological data was provided and is available [here](#). Australia recorded 2 new cases in the last 24 hours, with 1 of those being overseas acquired and 1 locally acquired, both in Victoria. In the last week, there have been 41 new cases reported with 28 overseas acquired and 13 locally acquired.
 - Globally, cases have continued to decline. There have been 2.65 million new cases reports in the past week. Weekly case numbers are increasing in Czech Republic, Iran and Iraq. The US reported 64,938 new cases in 24 hours and the UK reported 10,991.
 - Countries with the highest reported vaccination rates include: Israel – 45.1% (29.3% fully vaccinated); UK – 22.2% (0.8%); Bahrain – 14.6% (-); Serbia – 11.5% (2.5%); US – 11.5% (2.5%); Chile – 9.7% (0.3%); UAE – 8.5% (2.5%); and Malta – 7.8% (3.5%).



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