

## COVID-19 - National Transplantation and Donation Rapid Response Taskforce Communique No.21 – 9 September 2020

- Transplantation update in Australia:
  - Nationally, there are 3,001 active COVID-19 cases.
  - There are 264 COVID-19 patients in hospital with 26 patients in ICU, with 16 being ventilated.
  - ANZDATA have reported the following COVID-19 cases among dialysis patients and kidney transplant recipients; 29 (16 recoveries): 19 kidney transplant patients (4 active cases, 14 recoveries and 1 death) and 10 dialysis patients (2 active cases, 2 recoveries and 6 deaths). Four liver transplant recipients have been infected but are now all recovering. One lung/kidney transplant recipient has tested positive with mild symptoms only.
  - There are currently no issues with ICU capacity.
  - Transplantation comparisons between this year and last: Kidney down by 27%; Liver down by 8%; Lung down by 12%, Pancreas increased by 32% with Heart transplantation increased by 26%.
  - ARCBS Lab staff in Melbourne and Sydney are continuing to run split shifts, business as usual.
  - Interstate retrievals are occurring despite ongoing logistical issues.
- Victoria:
  - COVID-19 cases in Victoria – in the past 24 hours, there have been 55 newly confirmed cases, with 20 patients in ICU, with 12 of those ventilated.
  - There has been a decrease in COVID-19 patients in hospitals and ICUs.
  - Centres are continuing transplantation services and assessing risks on a day-to-day basis.
  - The main challenges for Victorian units currently include: staff being furloughed; commercial flight availability; and the availability of single rooms for post-op care in some hospitals.
- Transplantation update for New Zealand:
  - Transplantation is continuing as normal in NZ.
  - In addition to cases arriving in NZ at the border, there have been low levels of community spread of COVID-19, largely in the Auckland region.
  - Currently there are 123 active cases in New Zealand.
  - There are 4 people in hospital with COVID-19 of whom 2 are in ICU.
- Research/Trials: there have been no significant developments with research or trials. Subsequent to the meeting, news that the Phase 3 Oxford vaccine trial has been suspended pending a safety review was received.
- Media: Various publications have been reporting on transplantation in the context of COVID-19, with primary focus on the challenges faced by patients and the health care systems, with the majority of the articles being positive.
- Data: Current COVID-19 epidemiological data was provided and is available [here](#). Australia recorded 66 new cases and 8 deaths with 55 of the new cases being in Victoria, 9 being in NSW, 1 in WA and 1 in QLD. Internationally, in the past 24 hours, India reported 75,809 new cases, the US 24,257 and Brazil 10,273. Weekly case numbers continue to increase in India, Spain, France (who reported 19,906 cases across the past 3 days), Indonesia, the Ukraine, Israel (who reported a new high of 3,331 cases) and the UK (who reported 2,951 new cases).



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