

COVID-19 - National Transplantation and Donation Rapid Response Taskforce Communique No.24 – 11 November 2020

- Transplantation update in Australia:
 - Nationally, there are 27,669 COVID-19 cases.
 - There are 20 COVID-19 patients in hospital with 1 patient in ICU.
 - ANZDATA have reported the following COVID-19 cases among dialysis patients and kidney transplant recipients; 33 (25 recoveries): 20 kidney transplant patients (19 recoveries and 1 death) and 13 dialysis patients (6 recoveries and 7 deaths).
 - There are no issues with ICU capacity.
 - ARCBS Lab workloads are returning to normal, with staff in both Melbourne and Sydney continuing to run split shifts.
- Victoria:
 - There have been no new COVID-19 cases recorded in Victoria for 12 days.
 - The main challenges Victorian units continue to face include; access to hospitals (although restrictions have been slightly relaxed for paediatric patients with siblings being able to visit); face-to-face clinics are difficult due to social distancing requirements (limiting the number of people that are allowed to enter clinic); and issues with getting people on the waitlist (due to not being able to be assessed face-to-face).
 - Previous border issues, for example, accessing SA from VIC and patients and family needing to quarantine have been rectified.
- Research/Trials: There are no peer-reviewed, phase 3 trials as yet. The immunogenicity/efficacy of the new range of vaccines in the moderate to severely immune suppressed is unknown and no trials are underway yet.
- COVID-19 vaccines: A presentation to the group by Dr Christopher Blyth and advice and discussions led by both Dr Blyth and Professor Tony Cunningham on COVID-19 vaccinations provided excellent insights and clarified our thinking on how best to proceed in order to protect our transplant recipients from COVID. Following these discussions, the TSANZ will be developing a position statement on a Vaccination strategy for moderate and severely immunosuppressed patients that will be circulated to relevant bodies for input. This will include an approach to Government and a research strategy.
- Data: Current COVID-19 epidemiological data was provided and is available [here](#). Australia recorded 10 new cases in that last 24 hours, which were all overseas acquired in returned travellers in hotel quarantine. Global cases passed 4 million in the past week. Internationally, the US has reported 111,433 new cases and France has recorded 60,000 in the past 48 hours. Weekly case numbers are increasing in the US, Italy, Poland, Russia (21,577), Ukraine, Iran (10,463), Austria, Portugal, Morocco, Hungary, Canada, Bulgaria, Sweden, Turkey, Georgia (2,927), Croatia, Greece and Serbia. New daily high case numbers are reported in brackets.



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