

## COVID-19 - National Transplantation and Donation Rapid Response Taskforce Communique No.25 – 25 November 2020

- Transplantation update in Australia:
  - Nationally, the total number of COVID-19 cases since February 2020 are 27,843.
  - There are 21 COVID-19 patients in hospital no patients being 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 have no issues.
  - The main challenge units are facing is the decrease in donors.
  - Victoria have reported that the main issue, other than donor numbers is that it is proving difficult to build their waiting lists back up.
- Research/Trials: There are reports from Oxford suggesting that AstraZeneca has 60-90% efficacy, depending on doses and it doesn't require storage at -70°, which would be an advantage for delivery and storage purposes in Australia and developing countries. Both Pfizer and Moderna are reporting 90% efficacy. The U.S FDA have authorised emergency use of regeneron. There is US research that looked at patients 6-months post-infection that had memory b cells persistent and increasing compared to a month after infection.
- Data: Current COVID-19 epidemiological data was provided and is available [here](#). Australia recorded 13 new cases in the last 24 hours, with 12 of those being overseas acquired and 1 being locally acquired in South Australia. Global cases passed 4 million in the past week. Internationally, the US has reported 169,190 new cases with Russia (24,891), Canada (6,795) and Turkey (6,713) recording daily record case numbers (in brackets). Numbers are high and increasing in the US, Ukraine, Serbia, Indonesia and Sweden also.
- Testing: Some units have changed the requirement of pre-operative testing of patients. With the virus not being eliminated, it is too early and too hi-risk to stop donor testing with the testing of recipients to be discretionary.
- Vaccination Policy: Prof Steve Chadban and Prof Toby Coates have led a group of experts to develop a proposed future strategy for the protection of Australians with organ failure or functioning transplants from COVID-19 through vaccination. These patients are at high risk of acquiring COVID-19 from close contact with an infected person, particularly family members. The TSANZ would like to thank the ANZSN, Kidney Health Australia and Transplant Australia for their input and support for the proposed recommendations. The group will be writing to the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) and notifying the Commonwealth Government of their recommendations.



Professor Toby Coates  
Co-Chair of Taskforce



Professor Steve Chadban  
Co-Chair of Taskforce



Dr Helen Opdam  
Organ and Tissue Authority