

Vaccinations

Transplant candidates are at increased risk of complications from vaccine-preventable diseases such as chickenpox, measles, hepatitis, flu, etc. After your transplant, your transplant doctor will start you on medications that will prevent a vaccine from being effective. That is why it's important that you receive needed vaccinations BEFORE you are put on the transplant list.

Here's a list of vaccinations we recommend or require. Vaccinations can be given at your primary care provider's office or from the county health department nearest you. Patients that are immunocompromised should not take live virus vaccines such as MMR or Varicella.

Required-Immunity/Antibodies or evidence of receiving vaccine and did not produce immunity:

Varicella (chicken pox) – Get this if you have never had a chicken pox vaccine before **OR** you have never had chicken pox. Unless you are immunocompromised.

MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) – Get this if you were not vaccinated as a child or did not receive the booster as an adult. Unless you are immunocompromised.

Recommended Vaccines:

Covid – Vaccination or antibodies from a natural exposure.

Hepatitis B – Get this if you have never gotten the full series of Hepatitis B shots or do not have immunity unless otherwise indicated by the physician. It will require you to get a series of 3-4 injections.

Herpes Zoster – (Zostavax) If you are >50 years old. ***If you have never been vaccinated for chicken pox or have never had chicken pox before, talk to your primary care doctor first before getting this vaccine.***

DTap (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis) – Get this if you have not had a tetanus shot in the last ten years.

Flu (SHOT ONLY - not nasal spray) – Get every year. The best time is early fall. Don't wait until the "cold weather" months.

Pneumococcal – (Pneumococcal vaccine 20 or Prevnar 15 & Prevnar 23) Get this if you have never gotten it before.

Hepatitis A – Get this if you have never gotten a Hepatitis A shot before. It will require a single vaccination with a booster shot 12 months later.

Note: Hepatitis A & B can be given as a combination vaccine

Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) – Get this if you have never gotten it before AND if you are 26 years old or younger.

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