

17th March 2020

COVID 19 Donation – a summary of International Correspondence

Caution – the below is from personal correspondence, with links to official guidance if available

Italy

- Donation can and does still continue.
- Donor numbers will reduce, some transplant centres have stopped.
- ICU capacity severely reduced – admission criteria altered
- Test all donors for COVID 19 - turnaround time 5-6 hours
- Priority recipients – urgent cases, those not needing ICU (kidney)
- Transplant recipients all screened at admission
- "If we have a donor we should work to do whatever is possible to consent donation, exchanging organs with centers and regions that can manage transplants in the moment when it realizes."

Spain

- Having a tremendous impact on the entire system, that we could hardly imagine.
- Testing all donors (and patients on the waiting list prior to transplantation) but this is a secondary issue compared to ICU capacity.
- The most affected areas are only able to accept organs for urgent or extremely ill patients on the waiting list.
- So far, we have not identified information on transplant patients affected by COVID-19 – at least, the published data do not make reference to this group of patients.
- [English summary of latest recommendations](#)

Canada

- [Canadian Blood Service](#)
- Recommended adopt a precautionary approach and defer both living and deceased CTO donors with known or highly suspected active COVID 19.
- Case by case consideration is necessary under these circumstances and should take into account the risk to the recipient and the urgency of the need for the transplant.
- Establishments may also wish to consider under what circumstances and for what type of CTOs, risk factors for COVID-19 in a donor would pose a significant risk to recipients. Establishments may consider implementing other voluntary donor screening measures for both deceased and living donors to address the risk of COVID-19, such as donor deferral criteria that are based solely on travel to at-risk areas, donor deferral criteria that are based on travel to at-risk areas in combination with symptoms of infection, or donor deferral criteria that are based on exposure to individuals with COVID-19.

USA

- There is no uniform policy as of this time In the United States.
- [American Society of Transplantation](#)