



## OSPIDÉAL BEAUMONT

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## BEAUMONT HOSPITAL

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Guthán: Telephone 8093000 / 8377755

Deputy Denis Naughten TD,  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2

06 September 2021

Dear Mr Naughten

With reference to your enquiry with regard to renal transplantation.

Despite significant challenges, the National Transplant Programs continue to operate through this phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, thanks largely to the efforts of patients, staff and the incredible generosity of donor families.

COVID 19 infection carries particular risk to Kidney, Liver, Pancreas, Lung and Heart transplant recipients. Following transplant, the immune system is weakened and the risk of serious illness or death from COVID-19 is exceptionally high. In the setting of ongoing community transmission of COVID 19, patients who are unvaccinated are at very high risk. In addition to the personal risk, a transplant recipient with COVID-19 may unintentionally introduce infection to a transplant service creating a risk to other transplant recipients.

In order to protect all immunosuppressed transplant patients from COVID-19 to the greatest degree practical, it is expected that all individuals, engage fully with available measures to protect themselves from acquiring COVID-19 and thus to minimise the risk of exposing themselves or other transplant recipients to COVID-19.

Available protective measures include:

- Vaccination against COVID-19, as per HSE criteria.
- Strict adherence to all recommended non-pharmacological interventions, including mask wearing, social distancing and hand hygiene.
- Cocooning at home after transplant, except for essential hospital visits.

In the circumstances that a transplant candidate is unable to participate in COVID-19 infection prevention measures, they will remain active on the transplant program. In the event of a donation episode, a risk/benefit assessment will be completed to determine whether a safe and successful transplant can be undertaken in all the circumstances. Risk assessment may result in deferral of transplant surgery if the risk to the person is considered too high at that time because of inability to engage with protective measures or for any other reason.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Carter'.

**IAN CARTER**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**