

To: All Transplant and Recipient Patient Groups

Ref: FD/st/2021/01.02

Date: 12/01/2021

Fox Den Road
Stoke Gifford
Bristol
BS34 8RR

Tel: 0117 975 7575
Fax: 0117 975 7577
www.nhsbt.nhs.uk

Re: NHS Blood and Transplant - COVID 19

Dear Colleagues,

We understand that the surging numbers of coronavirus cases is a very worrying time for everyone, including patients who are anxiously waiting a transplant, transplant recipients, their families and friends.

A number of hospitals and their transplant units are experiencing out of the ordinary challenges, with staff shortages, pressure on-both theatre availability and intensive care unit (ICU) beds/general bed capacity.

As we have done since the start of this pandemic, we continue to facilitate organ donation and transplantation to proceed where it is safe and possible to do so, supporting colleagues across the organ donation and transplantation pathway and our wider NHS colleagues. We have documented and shared learning from previous surges in coronavirus cases earlier in the year and plan to continue doing so. By shared learning we now know more about keeping patients safe and treating the coronavirus. However, transplant units may not be able to accept organs for transplant for a limited period and we know this will be incredibly difficult and upsetting for all concerned. As we have done previously, we will support the recovery of transplant services, utilising our experience, resilience and excellent working relationships with all our transplant colleagues across the UK.

Donor numbers and transplants can be viewed via the ODT Clinical Microsite <https://nhsbt.dbe.blob.core.windows.net/umbraco-assets-corp/21197/daily-numbers-070121.pdf> as can information pertaining to transplant unit restrictions <https://www.odt.nhs.uk/covid-19-advice-for-clinicians/transplant-centre-closures-and-restrictions/>

Please do contact your local transplant unit if you would like to discuss the contents of this letter or indeed if you have any other concerns in relation to your transplant or in relation to your current status on the transplant waiting list. I know that they are working hard to support you.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Frank Dor
Deputy Chair of Kidney Advisory Group