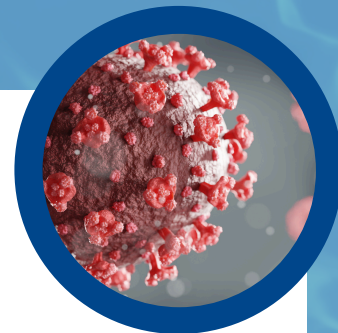


Vaccination FAQ: COVID-19

For People with Kidney Diseases



What is COVID-19?

COVID-19 (coronavirus 2019) is a disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. It is contagious and can spread quickly. COVID-19 spreads when an infected person breathes out droplets and very small particles that contain the virus. Anyone infected with COVID-19 can spread it, even if they do NOT have symptoms.

What are signs and symptoms of COVID-19?

There is a wide range of symptoms ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Common symptoms include fever or chills, cough, sore throat, fatigue, headache, muscle aches, shortness of breath, congestion, or new loss of taste or smell. Symptoms appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Symptoms change with new variants and can vary depending on vaccination status.

Can there be complications from COVID-19?

Yes, COVID-19 infection can lead to hospitalization and death. As of June 2024, nearly 1.2 million people have died of COVID-19 in the US. There are some people, including those with minor or no symptoms, that will develop post-COVID conditions, also called long COVID. Long COVID is a serious illness that can result in chronic conditions or disability requiring comprehensive care.

Are there certain people at higher risk for severe complications?

Yes, people at higher risk for severe disease include those who are older than 65, who are immunocompromised, and/or who have certain underlying medical conditions. Patients with chronic kidney disease are more likely to have severe illness from COVID-19.

What is the best protection against COVID-19?

The best protection against COVID-19 is to stay up to date on the COVID-19 vaccination. People who are vaccinated are less likely to have severe illness and less likely to develop long COVID. Following CDC's protocols for preventing respiratory viruses is also recommended to decrease risks posed by a range of respiratory viral illnesses. Core prevention strategies include staying up to date with immunizations, practicing good hand hygiene, and using precautions (e.g. masking) to prevent spread of symptoms if respiratory illness is present.

What are the recommendations for people being considered for a kidney transplant?

The COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for people being considered for a kidney transplant.

Can post-transplant patients receive a COVID-19 vaccination?

Yes, post transplant patients are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccination.

What if a patient is noted to have signs/symptoms of COVID-19 while receiving dialysis in the outpatient facility?

If a patient has signs and symptoms of COVID-19 in a dialysis facility, place a mask on the patient and ensure the health care staff institute contact precautions. Advise the patient to seek medical care and consider testing.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/covid/about/index.html>
<https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/prevention/index.html>

