

Siragusa Transplantation Center

COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions for Our Transplant Patients & Their Families

****Last Updated May 26, 2020****

We understand that the COVID-19 Outbreak has brought many concerns and questions, especially related to the re-opening of many communities. As communities move from the stay at home guidelines to reopening, there will always be risks of contracting the COVID-19 virus. The below are our recommendations for how to lower this risk, but you will need to determine for you and your family what will be most appropriate, especially as prevalence varies by community.

For the most recent recommendations and status of the COVID-19 Outbreak, we recommend you visit the CDC website at: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

We also recommend you review the guidelines from the American Society of Transplantation for Transplant Candidates & Recipients : <https://www.myast.org/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-frequently-asked-questions-transplant-candidates-and-recipients#>

We strongly recommend at a minimum that you adhere to the guidelines set forth for your state of residence and stick only to activities permitted under the current restrictions. Please keep in mind that this situation is fluid, and these are our recommendations with the information we have today.

Frequently Asked Questions regarding Community Re-opening

Recent (transplanted in the last 3 months) or patients on high level immunosuppression should check with their transplant program if these recommendations apply to them

Is it safe to return to work if I have had a transplant or my child has had a transplant?

We believe that you can return to work, provided that you will be able to wear a mask for the entirety of the time that you are at work, and practice social distancing. You should also practice frequent handwashing and have hand sanitizer available for instances when you cannot wash your hands. If these measures are not possible at your work, you may want to consider requesting an accommodation at work or applying for FMLA. The transplant center can provide a letter for you if you need this.

Can we travel?

Based on AST guidelines, we recommend that you continue to avoid non-essential travel at the current time. This is because it is difficult to ensure that you will be able to avoid crowds, and practice appropriate social distancing when traveling.

Can my transplanted child play with a friend?

Any direct interaction with people from other households comes with risk, and the safest option is to limit in person interaction. It is important, however, that while we stay safe we also avoid social isolation. If your child is going to play with other children, these are our recommendations for making this as safe as possible:

- Discuss with the other family to ensure that no one in the household has had any exposure to COVID or has any symptoms.
- Confirm that anyone your child is playing with is practicing appropriate social distancing measures such as wearing a mask in crowds and frequent hand washing.
- Play outside whenever possible
- Adult supervision may be appropriate to encourage activities that allow distance between children

Can my transplanted child return to day care?

If you have the option for in home child care, we would recommend that at this time. It is important for parents to be able to work, so if this is not an option your child can return to day care provided that certain safety measures are in place. You should discuss with your child care provider what measures they are taking to keep the day care safe, including smaller class sizes and masks for providers.

Can my child attend summer camp?

In Illinois, summer camps of more than 10 people are not planned to reopen until Phase 4 of the reopening plan. With the information we have today, we would not recommend participation in summer camps this year and limit play with other children to smaller groups.

Can my child return to school in August?

At the current time, we are not able to give any recommendations regarding returning to school as we are uncertain what the prevalence in your community will be at that time, and what safety measures will be in place. We should know more information in the coming months to provide more guidance on this topic. We anticipate that if local public health organizations have determined that schools can reopen, we would not restrict transplanted patients from returning to school. We would be supportive of individual decisions that families may make.

Do these recommendations apply to my transplanted child's siblings?

Yes, we would recommend the same recommendations for siblings of transplanted children.