Patient COVID-19 Vaccine Questions and Answers: December 22, 2020

Q: What is the recommendation from my Transplant doctor about the vaccine?

A: “In general our physicians recommend all patients receive the vaccine when it becomes available to you”.

Q: When are you going to have the vaccine for patients?

A: “As of today, we do not know when the vaccine will be available for patients. It is currently only available to healthcare workers that care directly for COVID patients every day. Residents of Long Term Care Facilities will be next to be vaccinated, then Essential workers such as; Police, Firefighters and Teachers. Then the vaccine will be made available to high risk patients and older adults. We anticipate that transplant recipients may fall under the “people at high risk for severe COVID-19 due to underlying medical conditions” “Right now we think it may be mid-January to late February before the vaccine will become widely available to patients at risk”.

Q: When the vaccine is made available to patients are you going to give them to us in the Transplant Clinic?

A: “The short answer is, NO. UMMC is working with State and Local health officials to develop mass scale vaccination plans and we have not been informed exactly how the plan will work.” “Once University Transplant has been informed how UMMC and the State Health Department decides on how to manage the vaccinations we will work to inform our patients.

Q: What should I do until the vaccine becomes available to patients?

A: “Continue wearing masks, social distancing, avoid crowds, wash your hands and monitor for signs and symptoms as you have done throughout the pandemic.” “We do not anticipate the vaccine to bring this pandemic to an immediate halt, it will take time to vaccinate enough of the population to start to reduce the threat.”

Q: I’m on your waiting list – can you help me get vaccinated?

A: “When available, we will encourage wait-listed patients to be vaccinated, but you will have to work with your nephrologist/dialysis unit, heart or liver specialist to obtain the vaccine.”