

September 29, 2021

Dear Transplant Center and OPO Colleagues,

In response to SARS-CoV-2 vaccination mandates from donor hospital partners across the northeast region, each of the OPOs (listed below) requires that organ recovery team members participating in the recovery of organs in the applicable OPO services areas be fully vaccinated against the SARS-CoV-2 virus. This requirement applies to all recovery team members including surgeons, medical students, assistants, technicians or coordinators.

All recovery team members will need to carry proof of vaccination on their person to provide the local OPO and donor hospital if requested. Acceptable proof of vaccination includes a vaccine card, a photo of the card on your phone or a copy of a digital vaccine certificate or immunization record recognized by your resident state

Recovery teams will be asked by the host OPO to confirm at organ offer acceptance that all team members are fully vaccinated and have applicable documentation. Any inability to meet this requirement (such as team members with exemptions) must be raised at the time of organ acceptance.

Maintaining a healthy and high functioning workforce is critical to the ability to deliver on the life-saving mission. We also seek to ensure a no-surprises, efficient recovery process that complies with the policies set forth by the many hospital partners who help carry out this lifesaving work.

Thank you all for doing everything you can to protect yourselves and others.

New England Donor Services
Waltham, MA

The Living Legacy Foundation
Baltimore, MD

LiveOnNY
New York, NY

ConnectLife
Williamsville, NY

Center for Donation and Transplantation
Albany, NY

Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network
Rochester, NY

Statement on Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination and Organ Procurement

September 21, 2021

Since the COVID-19 vaccine became available, ASTS, UNOS, AOPO, and AST have encouraged surgeons, physicians and staff receive the vaccine to minimize the risk to themselves and prevent respiratory disease and infection among the community and in particular our patients.

As the virus continues to evolve and vaccines are more widely available, many hospitals are mandating vaccination for their employees and vendors. ASTS, UNOS, AOPO, and AST not only encourage all surgeons to be vaccinated, but we also see the immediate need for any surgeon or allied health professional traveling away from their primary hospital/institution for organ procurement surgeries to carry their vaccination card for verification purposes.

