

Dear Transplant Recipient or Transplant Candidate,

You may be eligible to participate in a research study. This study is called “Immune Responses to COVID-19 vaccination in Solid Organ Transplant Recipients.” The principal investigator for this study is Dr. Kapil Saharia, a specialist in infectious diseases.

The reason for this study is this: The current COVID-19 vaccines work very well in healthy adults. However, these vaccines were not tested in transplant recipients, or in patients waiting for a transplant. We would like to learn more about how well these vaccines work in transplant recipients, and in those waiting for a transplant. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine is NOT part of this study.

In order to be able to participate in this research study, you have to

- 1) be over 18 years old
- 2) be eligible to receive any of the currently approved COVID-19 vaccines as set forth by the Maryland Department of Health COVID-19 vaccination guidelines
- 3) have had a transplant and be followed by a transplant team at University of Maryland Medical Center OR be listed to receive an organ transplant at University of Maryland Medical Center

If you have any of the following, you will not be able to participate in this research study:

- 1) have a history of HIV infection
- 2) have a history of COVID-19 infection
- 3) have cancer and need chemotherapy or radiation

This voluntary research study would ask you to participate in:

- 1) 6 blood draws over one year (in addition to your routine labs)
- 2) keeping a log of symptoms for 7 days after each COVID-19 vaccine dose
- 3) agreeing for research team members to review your medical record for relevant information

This research will be done at the Institute of Human Virology at the University of Maryland – Baltimore campus. You would need to come to the University of Maryland Baltimore campus six times. Each visit will take about 15-30 minutes, but the first visit may take up to one hour.

If you are interested in participating, there will be no benefit to you. Over time, the knowledge gained may help other patients in the future and thus benefit society. If you are interested in learning more about this study, or if you are interested in becoming a part of this study, please contact Dr. Saharia by e-mail or phone ([ksaharia@ihv.umaryland.edu](mailto:ksaharia@ihv.umaryland.edu) or call 410-706-2049)