



## **JOINT COVID-19 VACCINATION POSITION STATEMENT FOR AUSTRALIAN PATIENTS WITH KIDNEY DISEASE OR KIDNEY TRANSPLANTS**

### **Who are we?**

We are the Professional Societies that represent health professionals (doctors, nurses, pharmacists, allied health, scientists and others) who look after people with kidney disease or kidney transplants, and the patient organization for people living with kidney disease.

### **What do we recommend about vaccinating against COVID-19 for patients with Kidney Disease?**

Vaccination is an important strategy to help reduce the risk of COVID-19. We have written to the Australian Government to make them aware that kidney patients are a priority group.

***We recommend that people with kidney disease get vaccinated.*** We know that patients with kidney disease are more likely to be infected with coronavirus and more likely to get sick. Patients receiving dialysis or those with a transplant are most at risk. Patients receiving immune suppressing drugs, or patients with diabetes, heart disease or other serious health problems are also at increased risk.

All 3 vaccine types are suitable to use in people with kidney disease and kidney transplants, subject to patients having no other medical condition that is a contra-indication for any specific vaccine.

### **How can I get the Vaccine?**

People aged over 70, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged over 55, and younger adults with health conditions (such as those with kidney disease, kidney transplants and receiving dialysis) are included in Phase 1b of the Australian Government vaccine rollout. Please see the Australian Government website link below for up-to-date information about the rollout, including timelines.

All Kidney and Transplant Units in Australia are working to find the best way to get the vaccine to their patients. It may be different in each place. Talk to your kidney doctors or nurses, or your GP to decide upon the best plan for you once the vaccine is available.

### **Where can I get more information?**

The information we have is constantly changing so make sure you keep yourself up to date. Here are some websites with trusted and reliable information.

- Kidney Health Australia <https://kidney.org.au/covid-19-and-your-kidneys>
- Transplant Australia <https://transplant.org.au/>
- Australian Government <https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/covid-19-vaccines>
- Local Government Health Department Websites in your State or Territory.

We are also planning webinars and videos to keep you informed so please check Kidney Health Australia and Transplant Australia websites regularly.

**Please remember physical distancing, hand hygiene and masks are still very important to help protect you from COVID-19.**



**Contact:**

Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology

145 Macquarie Street Sydney NSW 2000

E: [anzsn@nephrology.edu.au](mailto:anzsn@nephrology.edu.au)

W: <https://www.nephrology.edu.au/>

***Important notice***

*This statement has been developed by the Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology (ANZSN), the Renal Society of Australasia (RSA) and Kidney Health Australia (KHA) for the general information of members of the public with kidney disease or who have had a kidney transplant, and their treating general practitioners.*

*The ANZSN, RSA and KHA have each made reasonable efforts to ensure that the information in this statement is as accurate as possible and that their recommendation is based on current Australian regulatory approvals, and the most current peer-reviewed clinical and scientific evidence. This Statement is for general information and guidance purposes only, and should not be considered a substitute for specific medical or clinical advice, nor a substitute for professional advice and judgement provided by a healthcare service or healthcare professional, in individual cases. Treatment decisions of individuals with kidney disease, or who have had a kidney transplant, should be made in consultation with their treating health practitioners.*

*The ANZSN, RSA and KHA reserve the right to change any information in this Statement at any time based on new or emerging clinical or scientific evidence, or regulatory changes.*

*Neither the ANZSN, RSA or KHA, jointly or severally, accepts liability for any loss or damage whatsoever suffered either directly or indirectly as a result of using or otherwise relying upon any material or information made available in this Statement, or in connection with the suitability, for any purpose, of the contents of this statement.*

*This statement may be accessed from other countries around the world and may contain references to products, services, and programs that have not been announced in your country. These references do not imply that ANZSN, RSA or KHA intend to announce such products, services or programs in your country.*