

9 April 2021

Dear Renal Patient

St George Renal Department recommendations re Covid Vaccination

- 1. The Australian & NZ Society of Nephrology (ANZSN), the Renal Society of Australasia (RSA) and Kidney Health Australia (KHA) jointly recommend that all patients with kidney disease should be vaccinated against Covid. This includes all transplant and dialysis patients.
- 2. The vaccine on offer for most kidney patients will be the AstraZeneca vaccine; this is not a live vaccine. Patients <50 years old <u>May</u> be offered the Pfizer vaccine.
- 3. The nephrologists at St George follow national and international recommendations that both vaccines are safe and effective for patients with kidney disease.
- 4. We strongly recommend you also have the flu vaccine each year, including 2021.
- 5. There must be a gap of at least 14 days between this vaccination and any other vaccination, including flu vaccine.
- 6. Vaccination is not compulsory but the Nephrologists at St George strongly recommend you get vaccinated as the risk if you are infected with Covid is far greater than any very small risk from vaccination. All nephrologists have had the AstraZeneca vaccine themselves.
- 7. The doctors at St George are working with the Hospital and Health Service administration to see whether any vaccine will be provided to you at the hospital or whether you will have to go via your GP. We will let you know as soon as we hear.
- 8. If you have your vaccine elsewhere please bring a record of this to your next appointment with your kidney specialist.

Kind Regards

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