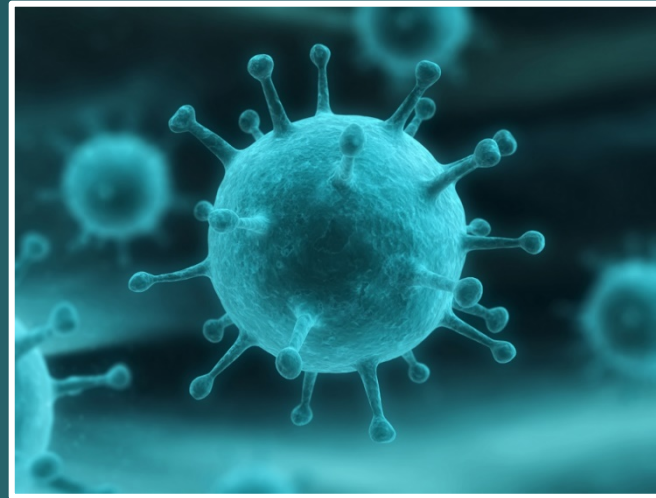


# COVID-19

An End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) National Coordinating Center (NCC)  
Professional Education Webinar

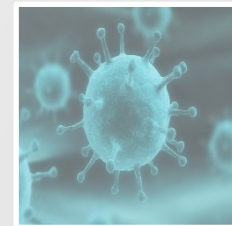


September 30, 2020

COVID-19 = Coronavirus Disease 2019

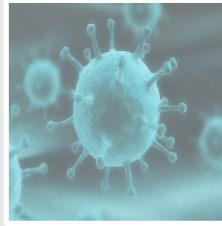


# Agenda



- What is this call about?
- Today's speaker:
  - Liz Lehr, RN, MHA  
Senior Vice President, Executive Director, LifeLink® of Florida
- Topic: Organ Donation-Impacts of COVID-19
- Questions and answers (Q&As) from chat and Q&A panels

# What Is This Call About?



- Hear from stakeholders and peers in the ESRD community who are adapting to COVID-19.
- Share examples and provide real-world strategies for facilities to use.
- Engage in bi-monthly calls on varying topics.

# Organ Donation

## Impacts of COVID-19

Liz Lehr, RN, MHA

Senior Vice President / Executive Director

LifeLink® of Florida

LifeLink®

A non-profit community service organization dedicated to the recovery of life-saving and life-enhancing organs and tissue for transplantation therapy.



# Are Organ Transplants Taking Place During the COVID-19 Outbreak?

“Each transplant program must continue to weigh the risks and benefits of transplanting an individual candidate against other risks, including the potential for acquiring other illnesses. Each transplant program must also consider the staff and resources available to provide transplant services in addition to other healthcare services.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued [guidance](#) (PDF—258 KB) that identified organ transplants as Tier 3b procedures that should not be postponed. CMS also [recommended](#) (PDF—361 KB) that hospitals continue to provide organ procurement organization (OPO) staff access to hospital facilities for deceased donor organ recovery.”

<https://www.organdonor.gov/coronavirus-covid-19-frequently-asked-questions>

# Should Organs Be Used From Donors Who Test Positive for COVID-19?

“Consistent with clinical guidance from the American Society of Transplantation, The Transplantation Society, and the Association of Organ Procurement Organizations, the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) does not recommend transplantation of organs from donors known to have the virus. This guidance may change as more becomes known about the course and treatment of COVID-19.

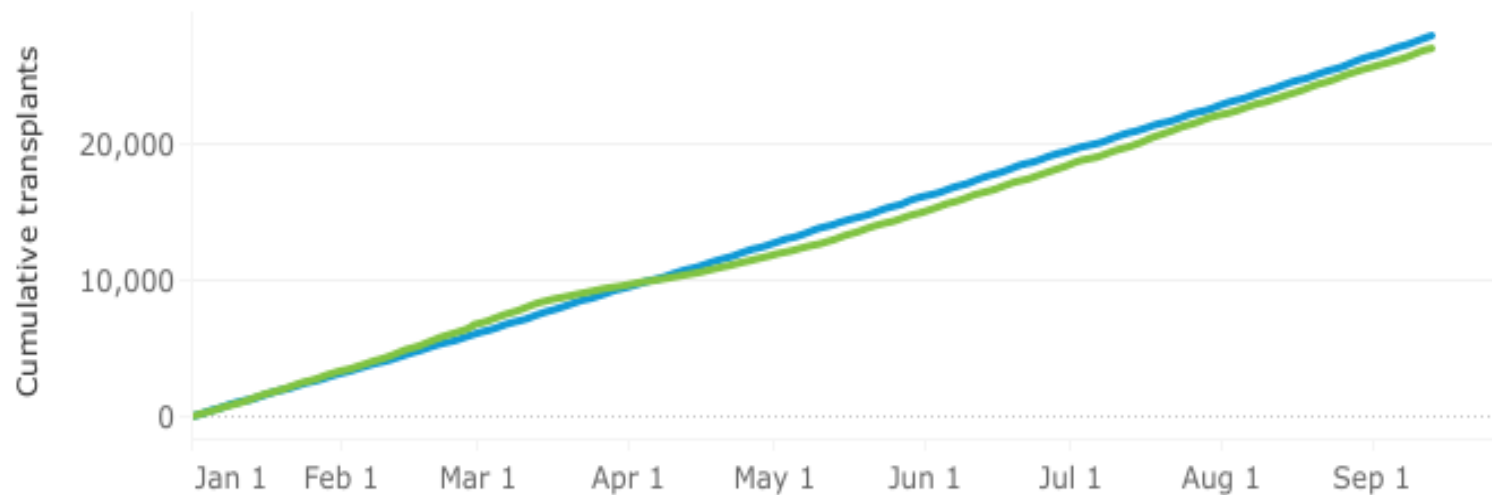
Donation and transplant clinicians should apply their medical judgment in instances where test results are pending at the time of organ offers.”

<https://www.organdonor.gov/coronavirus-covid-19-frequently-asked-questions>

# All Transplants in the U.S. to Date

■ 2020 ■ 2019

## Year-to-date transplants



Transplant hospitals have 24 hours to report a transplant to the OPTN. This data reflects a two day lag.  
Pancreas islets and VCA transplants omitted.  
Based on OPTN data as of 9/15/2020 01:04. Data subject to change based on future data submission or correction.

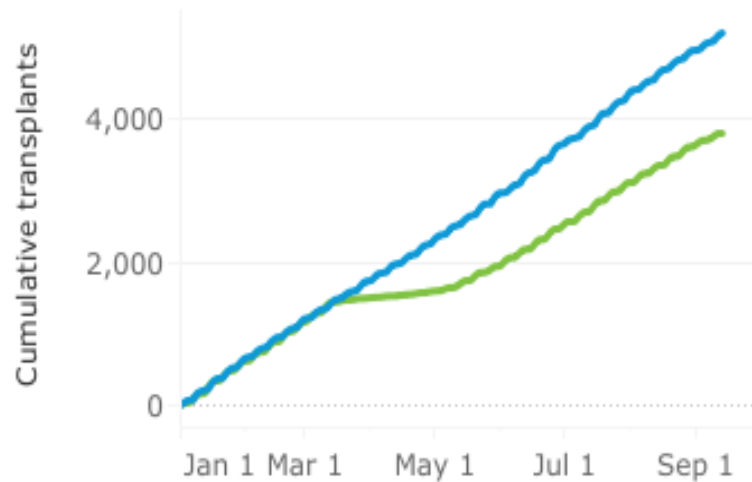
<https://unos.org/covid/>

VCA – Vascularized Composite Allografts

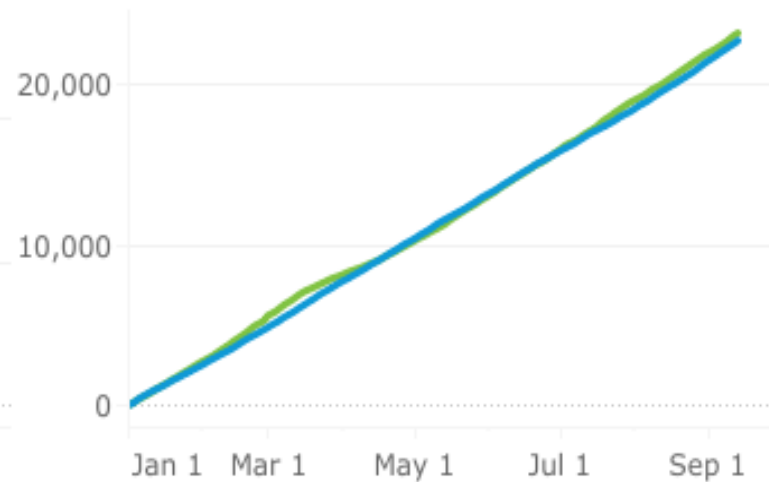
# Living & Deceased Donor Transplants in the U.S. to Date

■ 2020 ■ 2019

## Living donor transplants



## Deceased donor transplants



Transplant hospitals have 24 hours to report a transplant to the OPTN. This data reflects a two day lag.  
Pancreas islets and VCA transplants omitted.  
Based on OPTN data as of 9/15/2020 01:04. Data subject to change based on future data submission or correction.

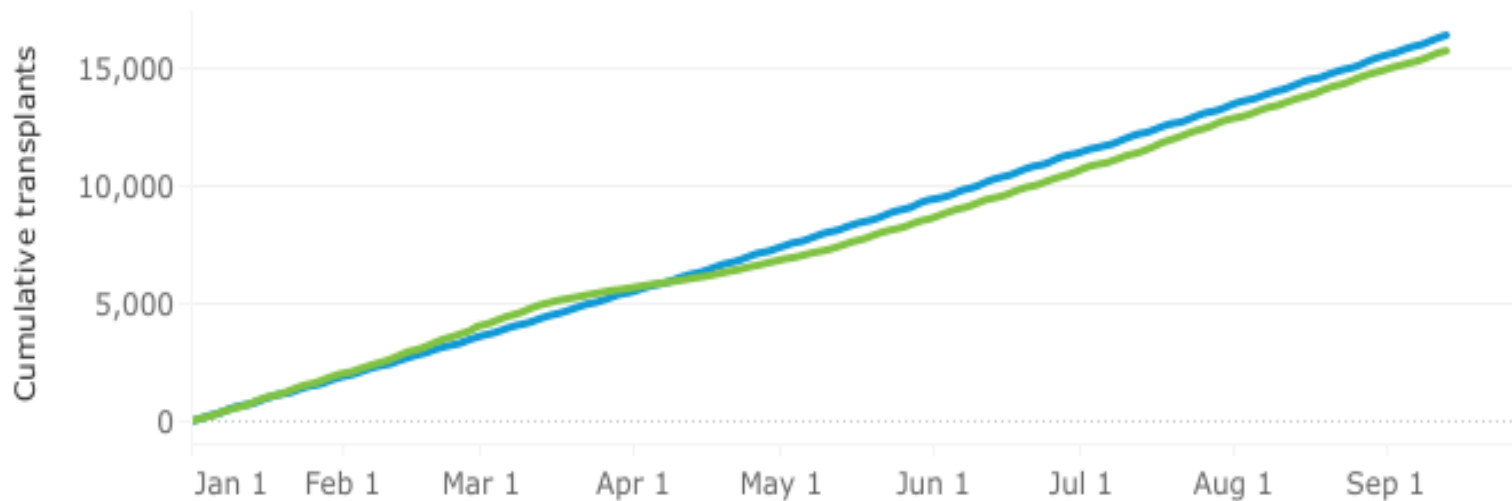
<https://unos.org/covid/>



# All Kidney Transplants in the U.S. to Date

■ 2020 ■ 2019

Year-to-date transplants

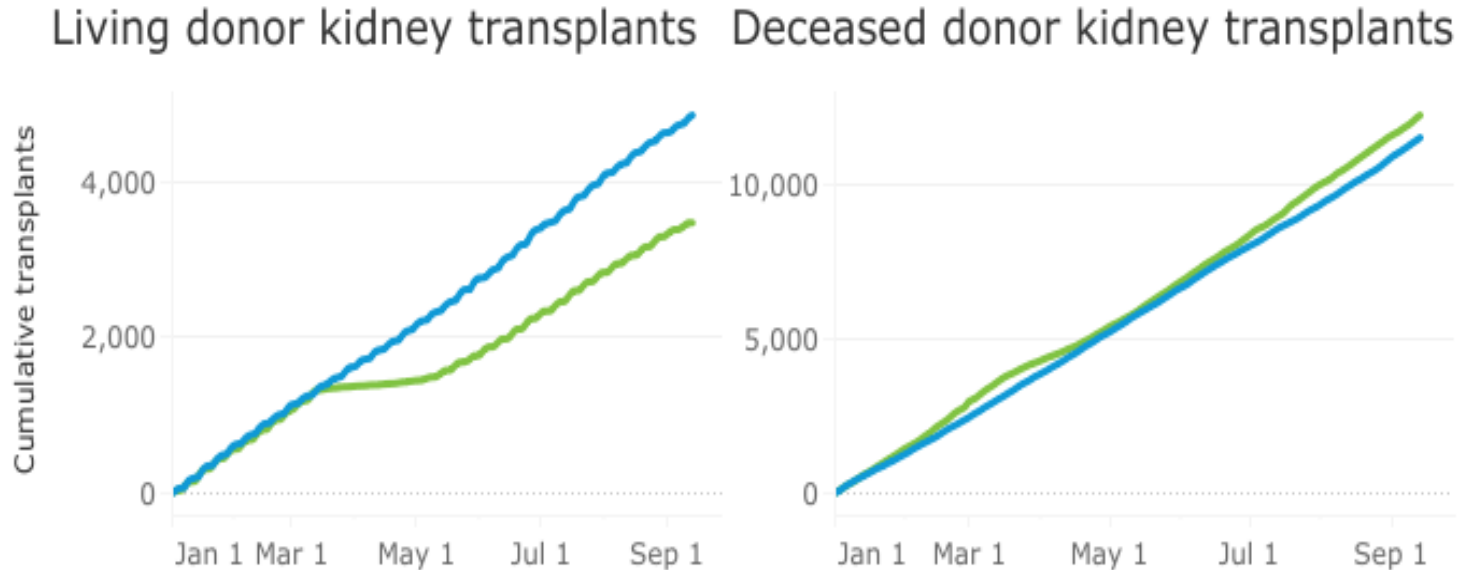


Transplant hospitals have 24 hours to report a transplant to the OPTN. This data reflects a two day lag.  
Pancreas islets and VCA transplants omitted.  
Based on OPTN data as of 9/15/2020 01:04. Data subject to change based on future data submission or correction.

<https://unos.org/covid/>

# Living & Deceased Donor Kidney Transplants in the U.S. to Date

■ 2020 ■ 2019



Transplant hospitals have 24 hours to report a transplant to the OPTN. This data reflects a two day lag.

Pancreas islets and VCA transplants omitted.

Based on OPTN data as of 9/15/2020 01:04. Data subject to change based on future data submission or correction.

<https://unos.org/covid/>

# UNOS OPTN Donors in USA\*

## (CY 2015–August 2020)

	2020 (Actual to August 31)	2020 (Annualized)	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
<b>Deceased</b>	8,236	12,354	11,870	10,721	10,286	9,971	9,079
<b>Living</b>	3,623	5,435	7,387	6,848	6,182	5,975	5,991

CY = calendar year

\*Based on OPTN data as of September 17, 2020  
UNOS- United Network of Organ Sharing

# Impacts for Patients Waiting

- Projected fewer kidneys transplanted in 2020
- Delayed living transplants
- Improved technology to support donation

# Kidneys Transplanted in USA\*

## (CY 2015—August 2020)

	2020 (Actual to August 31)	2020 (Annualized)	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
<b>Deceased</b>	11,568	17,352	16,534	14,725	14,038	13,431	12,250
<b>Living</b>	3,314	4,971	6,867	6,442	5,811	5,629	5,628
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,882</b>	<b>22,323</b>	<b>23,401</b>	<b>21,167</b>	<b>19,849</b>	<b>19,060</b>	<b>17,878</b>

\*Based on OPTN data as of September 17, 2020

# UNOS Policy Changes for Pandemic

- Donor screening
- Required reporting as a pathogen of special interest
- Transplant center policy changes
- Temporary hold on Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients (SRTR) statistics for OPOs and transplant centers

<https://unos.org/category/news/covid19/>

# Deceased Donor Referrals

## Hospital Collaboration

- Potential organ donors remain high.
  - Hospitals across the U.S. have demonstrated their commitment to organ donation and referrals.
- Deceased organ donation continues to increase.
  - It is a testament to the hospital partners who have worked diligently through this crisis.
- The process for which OPOs triage and manage referrals, and work with donor families, has changed due to COVID-19.

# Hospital Staffing Challenges

- Deceased donation happens from individuals on ventilators in Intensive Care Units (ICUs).
- COVID impacted intensive care unit (ICU) bed capacity.
- Hospital staffing shortages



# Hospital Entry

- Restricted access to hospitals in areas with community spread of COVID
- OPOs send staff to hospitals to:
  - evaluate potential organ donors;
  - provide education for hospital team members on the organ donation process;
  - and to assess the effectiveness of the hospitals' referral process.
- Restricted family access

# Working With Donor Families

- Families are not able to be at the bedside of their loved one.
- Families lack the ability to travel if they live a long distance from the hospital.
- Family members are concerned for their own safety in a healthcare environment.
- OPO staff are able to bridge the gap for families, offering various ways to connect them to what is going on at the hospital with their loved one.

# Deceased Donor COVID-19 Screening/Testing

- OPOs test donors for COVID-19.
- OPOs screen for COVID-19.
- Transplant centers screen recipients.
- Testing and screening cause delays.

# Deceased Donor Evaluation: Overcoming Obstacles

- Obstacles include:
  - Personal protective equipment (PPE) supplies
  - Hospital entry requirements
  - Testing
  - Scarce hospital resources, including staffing, ancillary services, and even the ability to obtain food for OPO staff

# Deceased Donor Recovery & Traveling Teams

- Some restrictions are placed by donor hospitals for recovery teams coming from high rate of transmission areas.
- Many programs encourage local recovery and organs traveling unescorted.

# Kidney Transportation via Commercial Air Carriers

- Decreased frequency and availability of flights
- Global positioning system (GPS) organ tracking
- Increased challenges in transportation overall

# Outcomes

- COVID-19 presented a perfect storm to decrease organ transplantation across our country.
- Hospitals, OPOs, and transplant centers have partnered together to ensure that deceased organ donation rates continue to increase in 2020.

# Thank You!

# Questions?



# Let Us Hear From You

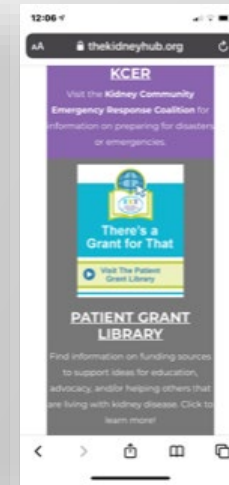
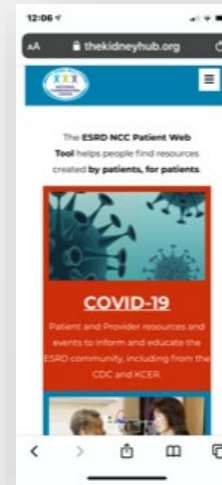
Q&As from chat and Q&A panels



# TheKidneyHub.org

## Introducing TheKidneyHub.org.

- Secure, mobile-friendly web tool for patients and professionals.
- Developed by the ESRD NCC with assistance from patient subject matter experts.
- Links to important resources, such as:
  - COVID-19, infection prevention, transplant, home dialysis, and new ESRD patient education.
  - **New** features include access to the **Patient Grant Library**, an informative **Understanding High-KDPI and Increased Risk Kidneys** video, and more.
- Visit today and bookmark to your device's home screen.



# Our Next COVID-19 Webinar Events



- Save the dates for our next events.
  - Patient-focused event:  
October 6, 2020, at 4 p.m. ET
  - Provider-focused event:  
October 14, 2020, at 3 p.m. ET
- Visit [www.kidneyCOVIDinfocenter.com](http://www.kidneyCOVIDinfocenter.com) for information and to register.



# Thank You!

[NCCinfo@hsag.com](mailto:NCCinfo@hsag.com)

844.472.4250

813.865.3545

[www.esrdncc.org](http://www.esrdncc.org)

Additional COVID-19 resources for patients and providers:



<https://www.kcercoalition.com/en/covid-19/>



[www.kidneyCOVIDinfocenter.com](http://www.kidneyCOVIDinfocenter.com)

This material was prepared the End Stage Renal Disease National Coordinating Center (ESRD NCC) contractor, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy nor imply endorsement by the U.S. Government. Publication Number FL-ESRD NCC-7N5TCO-09232020-01

