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South African Transplant Society

COVID-19 AND TRANSPLANTATION

Position Statement on Transplantation in South Africa (17 March 2020)

In line with measures being taken throughout the country the South African Transplantation Society (SATS) recognizes the need to reprioritize health care services to better cope with the Covid-19 pandemic.

All centres should consider a temporary suspension of elective living donor transplantation and non-urgent deceased donor transplants for the next 3 months.

The risk of the nosocomial transmission to and from donors, recipients and healthcare workers is very real and various transplant centres have cancelled all transplantation activity as part of their preparations to mobilize resources. This measure is felt to be appropriate by SATS given the currently available information.

Centres may decide to proceed with transplants but should only do so for life-saving surgery on a case by case basis with all appropriate precautions in place.

The situation is changing rapidly and vigilance is required, as such this approach may change as new information becomes available.

Dr David Thomson

SATS President

On behalf of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

18 March 2020

"...to advance the science of transplantation and to facilitate contact between those interested in transplantation and related subjects."