Potential recipients of organs/tissue from deceased donors without symptoms of an upper or lower respiratory tract infection do not need to be tested for COVID-19. As previously, potential recipients who show symptoms of an acute infection at the time of transplantation should be carefully evaluated and informed, and a risk analysis must be carried out by their doctor. For potential recipients with symptoms of an upper or lower respiratory tract infection, a nasopharyngeal swab for COVID-19 must be carried out. Transplantations can only be carried out if the COVID-19 test is negative and the general condition of the patient is appropriate enough for the transplantation to go ahead.

Based on the currently available information, and the broad consequences for the hospital, organs from deceased donors that tested positive for COVID-19 will with immediate effect no longer be transplanted.

Foreign offers are primarily evaluated by the Medical Director in close collaboration with the international partner organizations. Swisstransplant retains the right to suspend certain offers until further notice.

Bern, 9 March 2020
Dr. med. Cédric Hirzel | President STAI | Swisstransplant Infection Working Group
PD Dr. med. Franz Immer | Medical Director/CEO | Swisstransplant

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