

**TRANSPLANT
SPORT**↑



the Westfield Health
**BRITISH
TRANSPLANT
GAMES**
Leeds 2021

STATEMENT FROM TRANSPLANT SPORT CONCERNING THE BRITISH TRANSPLANT GAMES 2021

We would like to update you on the current situation regarding the British Transplant Games 2021, in the light of the current Covid pandemic.

Preparation for the Leeds Games started two years ago, with development of the athletic and social programmes including planning the opening and closing ceremonies. This complex process also included finding and checking suitable venues, reserving accommodation and enrolling volunteers as well as finding sponsorship for £250,000 worth of funding.

The overall aim of the Games is to deliver a key experience for participants and their families, but also to highlight the benefits of exercise, the life changing benefits of transplantation and the need for organ, bone marrow and tissue donation.

The uncertainties of the current Covid pandemic make planning an even greater challenge. The safety of the participants, their families, the managers and volunteers remains paramount and we are aware that most of the participants are at a greater risk of consequences of infection than the general public.

This may mean that the organisation of the Games may differ from previous years. It is likely that we will incorporate more social distancing and hygiene measures, reduce the number of competitors in each race/event and concentrate on the sporting activities rather than social events.

The start of the vaccination programme is a great boost and there is an aim to vaccinate all highly vulnerable individuals, which includes all transplant patients, by mid to late February 2021. Already in Oxford, many of our transplant recipients have been vaccinated.

The current position of Transplant Sport and MLS, the Games Organisers, is summarised below:

- While we are very keen that the full Games goes ahead in Leeds in 2021 as planned, this will only occur if we are convinced that this can be done safely for all participants.
- We, with the Stakeholder Committee and the organisers are still planning a full Games, while recognising that there may be modifications this year.
- While we are booking venues, accommodation and making other plans, we are limiting financial commitments or spend until we are sure the Games will take place.
- Any decision on the format of the Games will be made before further money is spent.
- Registration for the Games will be opening later than normal (in March- April). Consequently, the entry process will be stricter and swapping between events, or last-minute changes will not be possible. Team Managers will receive more details on this closer to the time.
- We may have to consider alternative approaches, depending upon the status of the COVID pandemic in March/April which could include:

- Having a limited Games
 - Having a virtual Games
 - Cancelling the Games altogether
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- We recommend that you plan that the Games will be able to take place safely but do not spend any money at this stage
 - **DO CONTINUE TO EXERCISE REGULARLY: DO TRAIN: DO PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN LEEDS 2021!**
 - We strongly advise that you accept a vaccination for Covid as soon as possible. For participants aged 16+, proof of vaccination may be a requirement in order to attend the Games.
 - **BOTH CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS ARE SAFE FOR ALL TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS***

* Only exception being those with significant allergic reactions to vaccines who should discuss COVID vaccination with their transplant centre or GP.

Vaccination advice is also available from NHSBT and can be found here:

<https://www.odt.nhs.uk/covid-19-advice-for-clinicians/>

For vaccine specific questions, you can also contact Dr Paul Harden directly on:

Paul.Harden@ouh.nhs.uk

We are aware of your legitimate concerns and will do our best to keep you informed.

If you do have questions or concerns, please email the Transplant Sport Office through our website www.transplantsport.org.uk