

# THE KIDNEY CONNECTION

## MISSISSIPPI KIDNEY FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

### Covid-19 Vaccine Q & A

The Mississippi Kidney Foundation asked Dr. Daniel Habeeb, MD, a board-certified nephrologist with the Hattiesburg Clinic, to answer some of the important questions patients have about the Covid-19 vaccine:

#### **Is the Covid-19 vaccine safe for dialysis patients?**

Patients on dialysis, especially those receiving in-center hemodialysis, represent a vulnerable population who are at high risk of death from COVID-19. Thus I encourage vaccination against COVID-19 among dialysis patients as soon as it is made available to them.

Because COVID-19 is a community respiratory illness, in-center dialysis patients may have increased risk of environmental exposure. Thus dialysis patients should consider discussing with their provider regarding home dialysis options, including converting to home peritoneal dialysis.

#### **Is the Covid-19 vaccine safe for individuals who have received a kidney transplant?**

Kidney transplant recipients are eligible for COVID-19 vaccination. Since there is a potential for reduced immune response, efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines are uncertain in patients receiving immunosuppressive agents such as in transplant patients. However the potential for benefit from vaccination likely outweighs these uncertainties. Thus I encourage vaccination in this patient population.

The above responses are in accordance with current recommendations by the CDC and medical data provided by the CDC, American Society of Nephrology (ASN) and UpToDate medical resource as of January 31, 2021.

Before receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, patients should discuss the matter with their medical provider. Also, after one receives the vaccine, precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 should continue, including wearing masks, personal hygiene and social distancing.



Dr. Daniel Habeeb, MD

#### **Are there any individuals who should not be vaccinated for Covid-19?**

Patients with a history of allergies or allergic reactions to vaccines should discuss the risks and benefits with the health care provider to determine if the vaccine would be safe to receive.

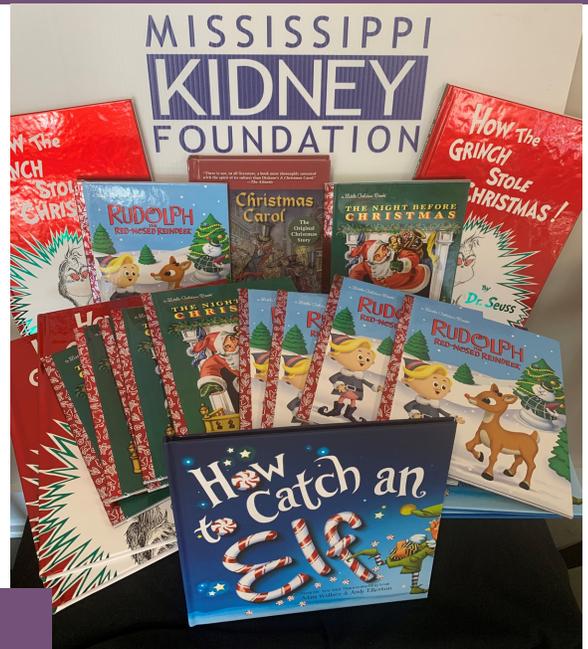
Generally, there is a risk of local and systemic adverse effects (such as pain at the injection site, fever, fatigue and headache), but usually these are not severe.

#### **The Covid-19 vaccine was developed and distributed more quickly than vaccines of the past. Could this impact the safety of the vaccination?**

The FDA and CDC continue to monitor the safety and efficacy of these vaccines and data will continue to evolve.

# Christmas for Kidney Kids

Thanks to the generosity of friends and partners across the state, the Mississippi Kidney Foundation provided forty Christmas gift baskets for pediatric dialysis and transplant patients at Children's of Mississippi. Each basket included a new book, a holiday face mask, and other gifts.



## IMPORTANT DATES

### FEBRUARY

American Heart Month  
Black History Month  
World Cancer Day (4th)  
National Wear Red Day (5th)

### MARCH

National Kidney Month  
World Kidney Day (11th)  
National Doctors' Day (30th)

### APRIL

National Donate Life Month  
National Pediatric Transplant Week (18th-24th)  
World Health Day (7th)

### MAY

MKF Uptown Drawdown (1st)  
National High Blood Pressure Education Month  
National Nurses Week (6th-12th)

## 100 YEARS AGO...

Insulin was discovered by Sir Frederick G Banting, Charles H Best, and JJR Macleod at the University of Toronto in 1921 and purified by James B Collip. Before 1921, it was rare for people with Type 1 diabetes to live more than a year or two.

## 2021 \$10,000 Uptown Drawdown

The Uptown Drawdown will be held virtually on Saturday, May 1, 2021 at 7 p.m. Tickets go on sale in early February for \$100.00. Ticketholders have a chance to win the \$10,000.00 grand prize and other great prizes. There will also be an amazing selection of art and other items for sale in the online auction. For more information, visit [www.kidneymf.org](http://www.kidneymf.org) or follow us on social media.

## GET MOVING

Seasonal activities can be a great way to stay active and have fun!

### FEBRUARY

Take a romantic walk with someone special or turn on the radio and dance, dance, dance!

### MARCH

Try your luck at a game of horseshoes or search for a four leaf clover in your backyard.

### APRIL

Organize an Easter Egg Hunt and take turns hiding the eggs. Use plastic eggs for indoor fun on a rainy day.

### MAY

Join a local water aerobics class to beat the heat, or stay home and try an online aerobics class.