

HUNGARIAN NATIONAL BLOOD TRANSFUSION SERVICE

Transplantation directorate

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URL: http://www.hnbts.hu/oco

Budapest, 12 May 2020

Dr. Serge Vogelaar

Medical director EUROTRANSPLANT International Foundation Haagse Schouwweg 6 2332 KG Leiden, the Netherlands

<u>Subject</u>: Hungarian preventive measures regarding international organ exchanges with Eurotransplant due to ongoing pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) – update

Dear Dr Vogelaar,

I hereby give official information on the changes in the measures written in my previous letter of 26 March (Ref. No. OVSzK/2831-1/2020/5230), on the travel abroad and entry into Hungary of medical teams removing thoracic organs (heart or lungs).

The changes of restrictive measures related to the coronavirus epidemic has begun to proceed with cautious steps across Europe.

The Transplant Section of the Hungarian Health Professional College and the Transplant Directorate of the Hungarian National Blood Transfusion Service reviewed and today issued an amendment to the COVID-19 organ donation Standard Operation Procedure, which also contains relevant provisions for the implementation of our Eurotransplant cooperation.

In view of the epidemiological emergency and to minimize the risk of transmission, thoracic procurement teams are allowed to travel again across the Hungarian borders, but in full compliance with the national rules listed below.

From now we can accept foreign thoracic procurement teams to enter Hungary and Hungarian hospitals. Due to preventive measures we can accept the teams only if they fulfil all and same requirements that we apply for the Hungarian thoracic procurement team prior to their travel abroad:

- all members of the team have to have a maximum two-week-old negative SARS-CoV-2 PCR result,
- all members of the team have to wear personal protective equipment (FFP2 respirator, protective coat and gloves) from leaving the aircraft to arriving at the operating room locker room then on the return trip.

Considering the current preventive and restrictive measures, it is possible again for the thoracic organ accepting centers to procure the donor organs for themselves for better match and safe of the patients in urgent need.

I kindly ask Eurotransplant to please inform all the other 7 Member States about that.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Best regards,

Dr. Sándor MihályDirector of transplantation