

LiveOnNY's Response to COVID-19

Updated June 19, 2020

Organ and tissue donation continue as the opportunity to save the lives of those on the waitlist remains constant. Organ donation is an essential service that must not be postponed. LiveOnNY is fully committed to partnering with our hospitals to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. We have streamlined our operations to adhere to all safety procedures while our clinical and field teams continue to facilitate organ and tissue donation for those patients waiting for lifesaving transplants. With an understanding of the evolving, unprecedented challenges our community is currently facing, we are continually working to modify our processes.

Below is an overview of the updates and changes that have been made to date:

- LiveOnNY operations are running 24-7. Our hospital partners should continue to make referral calls to our 24-hour call center 1-800-GIFT-4-NY (443-8469) with organ and tissue donation opportunities. All patients meeting defined clinical triggers (Glasgow Coma Scale ≤ 5 , Absence of 2 or more brain stem reflexes, Anticipation of family discussion about withdrawal of life support).
- Transplant teams have resumed all phases of active transplantation (live donor transplants, deceased donor transplants, kidney swaps/exchanges).
- LiveOnNY clinicians are adhering to all hospital policies regarding on-site hospital interactions. Our staff is committed to the optimization of every donation opportunity and to providing full care for donor families.
- LiveOnNY staff are using personal protective equipment (PPE).
- COVID-19 testing is required for all consented organ donors. A positive COVID-19 virus result precludes donation. Antibody to COVID-19 is compatible with donation.
- Routine in-person meetings and education sessions with hospital partners Are being rescheduled, consistent with hospital policies.
- The LiveOnNY Donor Family Services program continues to provide support and resources to families. Several of these services are through virtual meetings. To connect with Donor Family Services please send an email to dfs@liveonny.org.

We will continue to evaluate the impact of COVID-19 and make adjustments as necessary. As always, we value your partnership and your support of our mission to save lives, provide comfort, and strengthen legacies through organ, eye and tissue donation.