Can solid organ transplant patients get vaccinated?

After receiving a transplant, you are at greater risk for infections. Certain vaccines, called inactivated vaccines, are safe after transplant. Vaccines that are inactivated and CAN be given to transplant patients include:

- Intramuscular influenza vaccine (Afluria®, Fluarix®, Flulaval® and Fluzone®)
- Pneumococcal/pneumonia vaccine (Prevnar® and Pneumovax®)
- Hepatitis A vaccine (Havrix® and Vaqta®)
- Hepatitis B vaccine (Engerix-B® and Recombivax HB®)
- Tetanus, Diptheria and Pertussis/Tdap vaccine (Adacel® and Boostrix®)
- Meningococcal vaccine (MedACWY®)
- Human Papillomavirus vaccine (Gardasil® and Cervarix®)
- Shingles/Herpes Zoster Vaccine (Shingrix®)

Other vaccinations, called live vaccines or live-attenuated vaccines, are not safe and generally should not be received. Additionally, it is recommended for transplant patients to avoid those who receive these live vaccines for seven to fourteen days after they receive it. Vaccines that are live and should NOT be given to transplant recipients include:

- Intranasal influenza vaccine (Flumist®)
- Shingles/Herpes Zoster (Zostavax®)
- Chickenpox/Varicella vaccine (Varivax®)
- Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccine (MMR II® and Proquad®)
- Bacillus Calmette-Guerin vaccine (BCG®)
- Smallpox vaccine (Dryvax®)
- Anthrax vaccine (Biothrax®)
- Yellow Fever vaccine (VF Vax®)

If there are any questions regarding whether a vaccine is safe to receive, it is important to call your Henry Ford Transplant Coordinator BEFORE receiving it.