

# nPOD

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Donors with Diabetes

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## COVID-19 Testing on nPOD Donors

In light of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the nPOD team has taken a multi-faceted approach to screening new donors. These changes have included pre- and post-mortem testing by several modalities. All nationwide Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs) who supply organs for transplantation and research have criteria in place making COVID-19 positive patients medically ineligible for donation (1). Patients may also be ineligible if they have symptoms consistent with COVID-19 infection, are negative for SARS-CoV-2, but have no alternate diagnosis (1). OPO personnel are advised to follow all hospital-based protocols and have included additional epidemiological and clinical history screening questions during the Donor Risk Assessment Interview (2).

Due to changes in screening and testing implementation over time, all accepted nPOD cases from March 23rd, 2020 onward have documentation from the OPO of at least one negative test for SARS-CoV-2 via PCR testing from nasopharyngeal swab. This includes nPOD CaseIDs 6519 onward (cases are numbered sequentially in ascending order). Cases accepted in October 2019 through April 2020 have had RNA extracted from tissue including pancreas, spleen, duodenum, and thymus. RNA was shipped for PCR testing and all donors, tissues, and blinded negative controls tested negative. This includes nPOD CaseIDs 6505 through 6521. Nonetheless, universal precautions should still be taken while working with human tissue in experimental settings.

## References

1. Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPO). COVID-19 (coronavirus) Bulletin. Updated: July 15, 2020. <https://www.aopo.org/information-about-covid-19-coronavirus-is-being-released-rapidly-we-will-post-updates-as-we-receive-them/>
2. American Society of Transplantation (AST). COVID-19 Resources for Transplant Community: Recommendations and Guidance for Organ Donor Testing. Updated July 7, 2020. <https://www.myast.org/covid-19-information>