Transplants and COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots

- John Hopkins Medicine researchers have stated that individuals who have received solid organ transplants may benefit from a 3rd, booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine, like current practices with hepatitis B and influenza vaccines.

- The idea is that many transplant recipients must take immunosuppressant drugs to prevent organ rejection. A suppressed immune system may prevent the body from producing antibodies against foreign substances, like a vaccine, as efficiently.

- Research has shown that only 17% of transplant recipients produced sufficient antibodies after one dose and 54% produces sufficient antibodies after a second dose. A third dose appears to raise the immune response of transplant recipients by increasing the number of antibodies present.

- Further research is needed to determine whether the third vaccine dose is associated with lower COVID-19 infection rates as this study was only concerned with the number of antibodies.

Other COVID-19 Related Updates

- Israel Reinstates Mandatory Indoor Mask Wearing
  - As the Delta variant is becoming more prominent around the world and in Israel, Israel has made indoor COVID-19 mask wearing mandatory once again
  - Israel is seeing an increase in infection rates due to the Delta variant, however the increase is still very small and is not expected to result in a fourth wave.

- COVID-19 Deaths in Unvaccinated Individuals
  - Nearly all new COVID-19 related deaths are in unvaccinated individuals
  - Only 0.8% of deaths in the United States during the month of May were in fully vaccinated individuals.