

# Teacher's Handbook



## CONNECTING D.O.T.S.

DONATION & ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION FOR SCHOOLS



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# introduction

## Connecting D.O.T.S. “Donation & Organ Transplantation For Schools”

is an online program developed by the Dutch Transplant Foundation. Adapting from that model, The Transplantation Society, supported by the Canadian Society of Transplantation, aims to facilitate a discussion between parents, students and teachers about donation and transplantation.

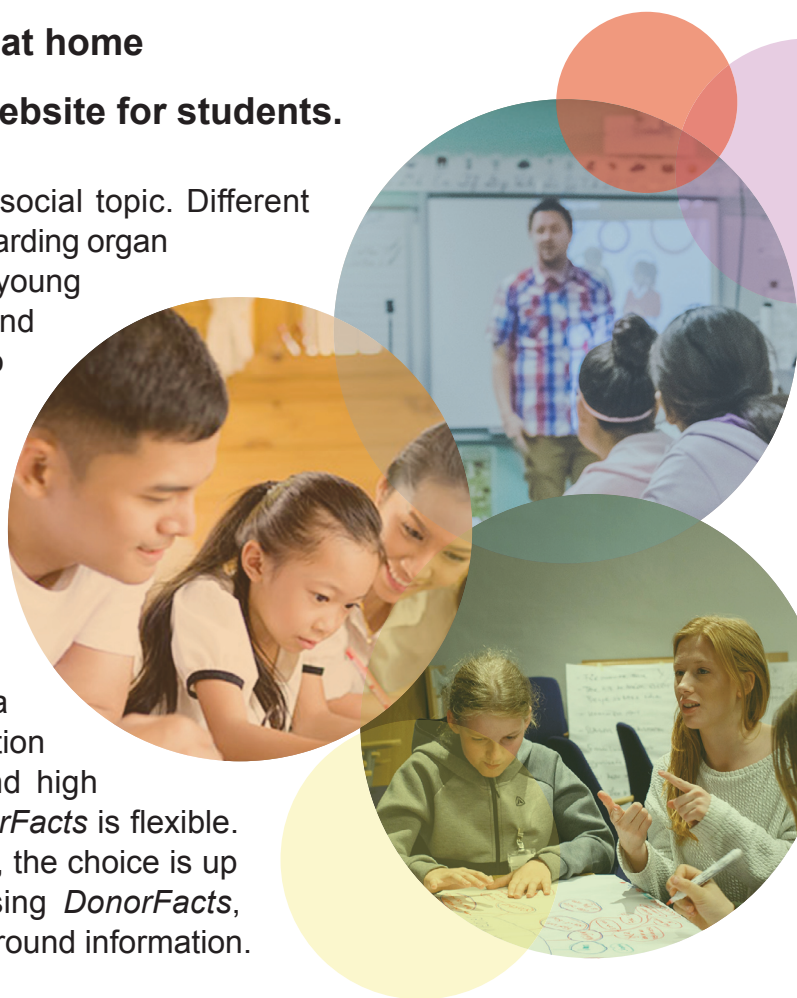
### The program is separated into three sections:

- 1 To help teachers teach about donation and transplantation
- 2 To help parents further learning at home
- 3 "DonorFacts" - the interactive website for students.

Registering to be an organ donor is an important social topic. Different countries, provinces or states have different rules regarding organ donation and registration. It is important to educate young people on the topic of organ donation and transplantation. So that when they are eligible to register, they are well informed.

Teenagers should have sufficient information and discuss the matter with others. In this way will they will discover what they truly think about organ donation and transplantation. **Connecting D.O.T.S.** is focused on helping increase their knowledge and facilitate opinion formation.

**DonorFacts**, the student section of the site, is a digital lesson platform about organ and tissue donation and transplantation aimed at youths in middle and high school. The platform is suitable for all grades. **DonorFacts** is flexible. Concise or extensive, the basics or the full package, the choice is up to you! In this handbook you will find tips for using **DonorFacts**, summaries of the different modules and extra background information.



what is

# DonorFacts?

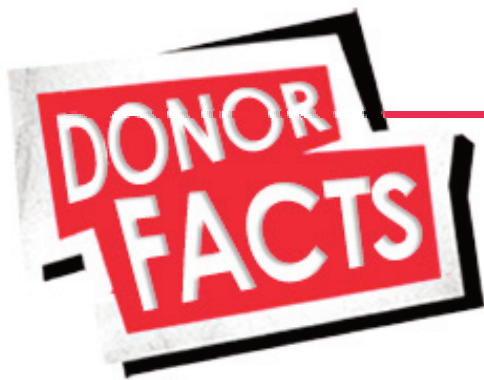
## What is DonorFacts

*DonorFacts* is a digital education platform aimed at youths in middle and high school. At [www.connectingdots.tts.org/donorfacts](http://www.connectingdots.tts.org/donorfacts), the biological, social and personal aspects of organ and tissue donation are presented.

**DonorFacts consists of three modules. Each module contains core components with an additional deepening layer**

- 1 Which Organs Can Be Donated?
- 2 Organ Donation – How Does It Work?
- 3 Can I Already Make a Choice?

The core components are suitable for all grades. But, as an educator, you can decide how deep you want to go. Each module includes videos and different types of assignments.



**Cover the Basics**  
in an **hour!**

Do you have  
**more time?**

Then dive into the full website!

[www.connectingdots.tts.org/donorfacts](http://www.connectingdots.tts.org/donorfacts)



**Easy to use!**

minimal preparation necessary

**Compatible with**

digital whiteboards, tablets,  
and smartphones

**Student interaction** via

movies, quizzes and  
classroom discussion



# structure of the modules

## Trailer

The *DonorFacts* section of the website and the three modules each start with an introduction movie. The “**1 Donor Can Save Up To 8 Lives**” trailer on the DonorFacts homepage serves as a warm up.

## Devices

The website is compatible for use on various devices with an internet connection, including digital whiteboards, tablets, and smartphones.

With the lessons on [www.connectingdots.tts.org/donorfacts](http://www.connectingdots.tts.org/donorfacts) you can employ an array of practical teaching methods. Sometimes there is a worksheet with an assignment, we recommend you print these in advance.

## The DonorFacts Curriculum

Increasing knowledge and stimulating students to form their own opinions is the core of the *DonorFacts* curriculum.

Discovering the importance of their choice regarding organ and tissue donation is important, and the curriculum is centered around discussing topics and various dilemmas around organ donation.

## Homework Assignment

You can use the homework assignments at any time. The purpose of these assignments are to address the subject of organ and tissue donation at home, by making it an approachable family topic.

## Image Bank

The image bank consists of images which you can use yourself during the lesson and students can incorporate into their assignments.

## Quiz

Test your students with the overall knowledge quiz. What do they know about organ donation? This quiz is a combination of the quizzes from modules 1 and 2, consisting of 16 true/false questions, with explanations.



**1 donor can save up to 8 lives**



HLA-A	●	MATCH
HLA-B	●	MATCH
HLA-C	●	MATCH
HLA-DR	●	MATCH
HLA-DQ	●	MATCH



**Which organs  
and tissues  
can be transplanted**

**How donation and  
transplantation  
procedures work**

**Why it is  
important  
to register**

which organs can be donated?

# module 1

- Which organs and tissues are suitable for transplantation
- What is the function of these organs?
- Where are these organs located within the body?

In addition to these basic and important questions, students will gain knowledge about what it means to live with illness and receive a donor organ.

## Goals

- Increase knowledge about organs and tissues
- Empathize the situation of a organ recipient

## Learning Objectives

- Which organs and tissues are suitable for transplantation and where these organs and tissues are located in the body.
- What are the functions of organs and tissues that can be donated and transplanted.
- What it means for someone when an organ or tissue no longer functions.
- What it is like to receive an organ from a donor.
- How many people are on the waiting list to receive an organ or tissue in the student's region.

## Background Information

**Illness can have a major impact on one's quality of life**

A donor organ can be the difference between life and death.

# how does organ donation work?

## module 2

- What is the process for organ donation?
- What is involved in making a transplant possible?
- What does donation mean for the donor's family?

In this module, students will discover the importance of sharing one's own choice on donation with family and relatives.

### Goals

- Increase knowledge about the donation process
- Empathize with the difficult situation of the donor's family

### Learning Objectives

- How the donation process works.
- How the transplantation process works.
- What organ donation means for family and relatives.
- What the importance is of knowing the donation wishes of family members.

### Background Information

**It rarely occurs that someone passes away under the right circumstances that make organ donation possible.**

In these cases, the family is always asked if they consent to organs and tissues being donated for transplantation. However, the deceased may never have discussed with their family what their wishes are regarding organ and tissue donation. Can your students imagine how hard it must be for the family to make such a personal decision at such a difficult time?

Discuss with your students why it is important that everyone's choice regarding organ and tissue donation is known and/or registered. Only then is it assured that what happens in such a scenario conforms to the wishes of the donor, while keeping the donor's family from being confronted with a difficult decision during an already difficult time.



who can make a choice?

# module 3

- **Why is it important to register one's choice?**
- **Which factors are important in making one's choice?**

In this module, students are introduced to donor registration and learn the importance of registering one's choice. Then they can conduct their own informed assessment about donation.

## Goal

- Increasing knowledge and opinion forming.

## Learning Objectives

- Who can register and how to register to be a donor.
- What is the importance of registering one's choice.
- Which factors are important when making one's choice.
- How can one make a personal assessment about the choice to donate.

## Background Information

**How do you talk about your choice? And which arguments do you have to support it?**

Discuss the different possibilities and outcomes of the important decision of organ donation.

And, remind students that the choice is not final: one always has the right to change one's choice.

# a matter of choice

## What will you choose?

Making an informed choice when it comes to a decision such as becoming and registering one's self as an organ and tissue donor is challenging on a very personal level.

It is for this reason that exploring and gaining knowledge through all three modules is extremely important. With that in mind, *DonorFacts* endeavors to reduce the complexity down to four distinct choices, and offers points for thought and debate accordingly.

## choice 1

### Yes, I consent to organ and tissue donation

One's organs/tissues can be used after death for transplantation; the donor is able to specify which organs or tissues can be donated

#### Points for thought ● ● ● ●

- Charity: "I want to do something good for another person"
  - Reciprocity: "If I needed an organ or tissue transplant, I would appreciate that others have registered themselves as donors."
  - Principle: "It's the right thing to do"
  - After death, one's organs and tissues are no longer being used.
- 

## choice 2

### No, I do not consent to organ and tissue donation

One's organs/tissues will not be used after death for transplantation.

#### Points for thought ● ● ● ●

- Spiritually and/or religious belief structure.
  - Feeling incomplete without organs/tissues.
  - Fear that doctors will let the potential donor die more quickly.
  - Family and relatives being confronted with a donation procedure.
-

## choice 3

### After my death, my family and relatives will decide

If one passes away under the right circumstances, one's family or partner will decide if organs/tissues will be used for transplantation.

#### Points for thought ● ● ● ●

- For the deceased, it no longer matters what happens to their organs; a person's family should therefore make the decision.
  - Inability to decide, even after discussion, which lets the decision fall to the family
  - Deciding to not decide
  - Uncertainty: "I don't like the fact that I don't know where my organs and tissues will end up after my death."
  - **Counterpoint:** the donor's family/relatives will be confronted with the difficult decision
- 

## choice 4

### After my death, a specific person will decide.

If one passes away under the right circumstances, a predesignated person will decide if organs/tissues will be used for transplantation.

#### Points for thought ● ● ● ●

- The same arguments apply here as for choice 3. The difference is that the potential donor can make an explicit choice on who decides on organ transplantation. For example, if there is not a good relationship with family or relatives, or if there are no living relatives to make the decision, a close friend could be designated.
  - The counter argument, however, is that the relationship with this person can change. If this change is not reflected in the register, this person can still decide what happens with organs/tissues upon death
-



# limited time? options for teachers

Do you have limited time, but still want to discuss the topic of organ and tissue donation with your class?

With the concise lesson outline below, you can build a dynamic and interactive lesson that only takes an hour!

## I. Introduction:

- A. Watch the trailer on the home page of *DonorFacts*, or;
- B. Test student knowledge beforehand with the quiz:  
***What Do They Already Know About Organ Donation?***

## II. Module 1:

- A. Watch the intro movie, and;
- B. Cover the ***Discover the Body*** section.

## III. Module 2:

- A. Watch the intro movie, and;
- B. Cover the ***Procedure of Organ Donation*** section.

## IV. Module 3:

- A. Watch and discuss the intro movie;
- B. Watch the video ***Four Choices***; and

## V. Summary:

Retake the quiz to see the change in results.



# frequently asked questions

## What is organ donation?

Donation means giving or gifting. Someone who is an organ or tissue donor donates their organs and tissues when they pass away. This is referred to as organ donation.

## What is organ transplantation?

Transplantation literally means the transfer of tissues or organs. During a transplant procedure the organs or tissues from a donor are transplanted into a recipient(s).

## Which organs and tissues can be donated?

Organs that can be transplanted: heart, kidneys, lungs, liver, pancreas and small intestine. Tissues that can be transplanted: skin, bone/bone marrow, cornea, heart valves and aorta.

## Can everyone become an organ donor?

Everyone can register the choice to become an organ donor. Whether someone actually becomes an organ donor is dependant on many factors. For example, the moment, the cause and the place of death. For some organs to be suitable for transplantation the donor must pass away in hospital.

## How can I register?

Different governments have different rules regarding who and how people can register. Go online and find out what are the requirements for becoming an organ donor in your region.

## Am I able to register that I don't want to be a donor?

Even if you do not want to be a donor, it is important to let your loved ones know. This way doctors and your family know what your wishes are regarding organ and tissue donation. And it prevents them being confronted with a difficult decision at an especially difficult time. Depending on where you live, you can register not to be an organ donor.

## What happens if you pass away without registering a choice?

If you have not registered a choice in the national donor register, doctors will ask your family for consent regarding organ donation.

## Does an organ or tissue always go to the person that has been on the waiting list the longest?

No, although waiting time is a factor in the decision making process, doctors also look at recipient medical information. Not every organ or tissue is suitable for transplantation into every person. Blood type, tissue type and organ size must also be a match to that of the recipient. Sometimes distance between the donor and recipient also play a role in the assignment of organs. This is because once outside of the body organs and tissues have a limited shelf life.

## Can I choose who receives my organs/tissues?

In the majority of the cases, a donor cannot decide who receives their organs or tissues.

The assignment of their organs and tissues is determined by a multitude of factors, including waiting time and medical information.

## What is living organ/tissue donation?

It is possible to donate an organ or tissue while you are alive. A living donor can only donate the following: a kidney, (part of) liver, (part of) lung, stem cells and blood.

## What is a consent system?

With a consent system a person must register their choice to become an organ donor during their life time. The Netherlands, Germany and England use the consent system.

## What is a no-objection system?

With a no-objection system everyone is automatically registered as a donor, unless they have specifically registered another choice. Spain, Austria, Belgium, France, Italy and Sweden use the no-objection system.





# notes

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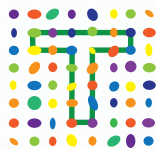
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# CONNECTING D.O.T.S.

DONATION & ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION FOR SCHOOLS



The Transplantation Society



Education Committee  
EDUCATIONAL MODULES



Nederlandse  
Transplantatie  
Stichting



Canadian Society  
of Transplantation  
LEADERSHIP IN CANADIAN TRANSPLANTATION