

Issued by JPAC: 18 March 2020

Implementation: To be determined by each Service

Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 13 - 2020

Coronavirus Infection

These changes apply to the Whole Blood and Components Donor Selection Guidelines

Please make the following changes to the Coronavirus Infection topic:

Includes SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome)
MERS (Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome)
COVID-19 (due to infection with SARS-CoV-2 virus, previously known as Novel Coronavirus or 2019-nCoV)

Excludes ~~Common colds and other upper respiratory tract infections caused by coronaviruses, without a history of travel or contact with the infections listed above.~~

Definition ~~Coronavirus risk areas:
These are specified in the 'Geographical Disease Risk Index' (GDRI)~~

Recovery from Coronavirus symptoms:

In line with Public Health England advice, donors can be considered to have recovered if they are well and free of fever and respiratory symptoms. Some individuals may have a persistent cough for some weeks after resolution of their infection.

Obligatory **Must not donate if:-**

-

~~a) Less than 28 days from a donor's return from a Coronavirus risk area. This includes transit through an airport in a Coronavirus risk area, even if the traveller has not left the airport.~~

~~b) Less than 28 days from the last contact with a person with Coronavirus infection.~~

~~c) Less than 28 days since recovery from Coronavirus infection or possible Coronavirus infection.~~

\Continued

~~*Discretionary* If more than 28 days has passed since:~~
~~-~~
~~• returning from a Coronavirus risk area, and/or~~
~~• last contact with a person affected by Coronavirus, and/or~~
~~• recovery from proven or presumed Coronavirus infection-~~
~~-~~
~~and the donor has remained well, accept.~~

1. Person with confirmed Coronavirus infection

Obligatory **Must not donate**

Discretionary If more than 14 days have passed since resolution of symptoms, accept.

2. Person who has been in isolation

Includes Self-isolation and/or household isolation for symptoms of possible Coronavirus infection or donors who have been advised to isolate after contact or travel.

Obligatory **Must not donate if:**

Less than 14 days from the first day of isolation.

Discretionary If it is at least 14 days since:

- the first day of isolation, and
- resolution of any symptoms (if relevant)

and the donor remains well with no symptoms of Coronavirus infection, accept.

3. Contact with a confirmed case of Coronavirus infection

Discretionary If the donor has not been asked to isolate, they remain well with no symptoms of Coronavirus infection and they agree to report any post donation illness, accept.

~~*See if Relevant* The 'Geographical Disease Risk Index'~~

~~*Additional Information* This entry has been revised following reports of a cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan, China, in 2019-20. The causative agent of this outbreak is a novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2).~~

Common coronaviruses cause colds and respiratory tract infections but are not considered a risk for transfusion recipients. Since 2002 there have been outbreaks in humans of new strains of coronavirus, associated with severe pulmonary infections and mortality rates of 10-35% e.g. SARS and MERS.

\Continued

COVID-19 is an illness characterised by respiratory symptoms, including coughing and breathlessness, and fever. It is caused by infection with a newly identified Coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2. During the 2020 pandemic, individuals with possible COVID-19 have been asked to isolate at home to limit spread of this virus.

~~There is no evidence at present that coronaviruses can be transmitted by blood transfusion and therefore these measures are precautionary.~~

Post donation illness

There is no evidence at present that coronaviruses can be transmitted by blood transfusion and therefore these measures are precautionary. Donors must be provided with information about contacting the blood service if they develop any illness after blood or component donation.

It is only necessary to recall the donations from donors who report symptoms of Coronavirus infection if these symptoms start on or before the fifth day after donation.

Information

This is a requirement of the Blood Safety and Quality Regulations 2005.

Reason for Change

~~The deferral after travel and recovery have been changed in line with revised European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) guidance.~~

This entry has been rewritten to take account of changes in the UK response to the 2020 COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic.

SmacLennan

Dr Sheila MacLennan
Professional Director - Joint UKBTS Professional Advisory Committee
☎ Direct Dial: (0113) 820 8638 ✉ sheila.maclennan@nhsbt.nhs.uk