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Implementation: To be determined by each Service

## Change Notification UK National Blood Services No. 31 - 2020

# Coronavirus Infection

## These changes apply to the Living Tissue and Cord Blood Donor Selection Guidelines

Please update the current 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)

*Definition* **Confirmed Infection:** If a diagnostic test has been performed and is positive, this constitutes a confirmed infection.

**Suspected Infection:** Compatible symptoms as per UK GOV definition [given below](#) and who has not been tested ~~in community~~ or is awaiting test result. ~~in hospital. Case definitions for inpatients and community cases currently in use can be accessed at the UK Government website [here](#) and [here](#)~~

**Symptoms of coronavirus infection:** The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) infection are:

- Recent onset of a new, continuous cough
- High temperature
- Loss of, or a change in, normal sense of taste or smell

### **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 or ~~reduced sense of smell or taste~~ for some weeks after resolution of their infection, ~~but can be considered as recovered for the purposes of tissue and cell donation.~~

### 1. Person with confirmed ~~symptomatic or suspected~~ Coronavirus infection

*Obligatory* **Must not donate if** less than **14 28 days** since resolution of symptoms

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*Discretionary* If **more than 28 days** have passed since resolution of symptoms, **and** the donor remains well, accept.

## 2. Person with confirmed Coronavirus infection without symptoms

*Obligatory* **Must not donate if less than 28 days** since confirmation of infection by positive results in a diagnostic test.

*Discretionary* If **more than 28 days** have passed since confirmation of infection by positive results in a diagnostic test, accept.

See additional information.

## 3. Person with suspected Coronavirus infection

*Obligatory* **Must not donate if less than 28 days** since resolution of symptoms.

*Discretionary* a) If **more than 28 days** have passed since resolution of symptoms, and the donor remains well, accept.

or

b) If **more than 14 days** have passed since resolution of symptoms, **and** donor has been tested and advised they **do not** have coronavirus infection, **and** the donor remains well, accept

## 4. Contact with a confirmed or suspected case of Coronavirus infection

*Obligatory* **Must not donate if:**

**Less than 14 days** from the first day of contact with an individual with a confirmed or suspected infection.

*Discretionary* If **more than 14 days** since the first day of contact with an individual with a confirmed or suspected infection and the donor remained well with no symptoms of Coronavirus infection, accept.

*Additional Information* Common coronaviruses cause colds and respiratory tract infections but are not considered a risk for tissue 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.

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. Its full pathogenesis remains unknown but individuals with certain underlying chronic conditions, the elderly and immunocompromised individuals are at risk of more severe disease.

Some persons with coronavirus infection may be asymptomatic. It is possible that they may have undergone testing for occupational health

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reasons (for example). Routine screening of living asymptomatic tissue donors is not necessary. They are likely to have been screened before hospital admission for a planned procedure as per hospital policy.

There is no evidence at present that coronaviruses can be transmitted by tissue/cell transplantation and therefore these measures are precautionary.

*Post donation illness* Donors must be provided with information about contacting the tissue establishment if they develop any illness within 14 days after donation.

*Reason for Change* ~~This entry has been rewritten to take account of changes in the UK response to the 2020 COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic. This entry replaces the previous entry.~~ The deferral after confirmed Coronavirus infection, or donors with suspected infections who have not been tested, has been increased to 28 days. This is in keeping with revised guidance from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC). To provide separate guidance for confirmed symptomatic or asymptomatic cases, or suspected cases. Additional information section has been updated.

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